GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL

REPORT

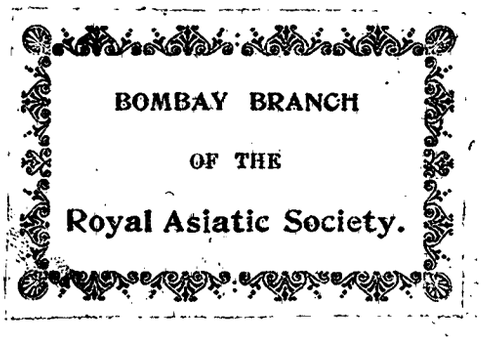
ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

DURING

1920-21.

00132998



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CALCUTTA :
THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.
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MAP.

MAP OF BENGAL.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1920-21.

*PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.**

Reforms.—The feature of the year 1921 was the introduction of the reforms scheme of Government. Four Members of the Executive Council were appointed by the Crown and three Ministers by His Excellency the Governor to have charge of the " reserved " and " transferred " branches respectively of the administration. On the transferred side the Governor acts on the advice of the Ministers who are amenable to control by the Legislative Council. The main branches which were transferred to the Ministers were Agriculture and Industries, for which a new department was formed, Local Self-Government (including Medical), Education and Public Works (excluding Irrigation); but the district of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts remained entirely in the charge of the Executive Council. In accordance with the views expressed by the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee, Standing Committees, composed of the Member, or Minister in charge of the department as chairman and four non-official members of the Legislative Council with the departmental Secretary as secretary, were also attached to certain departments.

2. **Legislative Council.**—The Bengal Legislative Council, as reconstituted under the reforms, was inaugurated by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on the 1st February 1921 with imposing ceremony, and sat for 60 days during the year. Its constitution and the result of the elections were analysed in the report for last year; the present remarks are therefore confined to the work of the Council during the year. This was dominated on the one hand by the serious financial difficulties of the province, consequent on the allocation of funds recommended by the Meston Committee, and on the other by the fact that the major portion of the legislation, which was ready for introduction into the Council, related to transferred subjects and could not be brought forward until the Ministers in charge of those subjects had had full opportunity of scrutinising the proposals and amending them to suit their policy. The result was that, except for the practical work of dealing with the budget, the constructive

* The general summary of the Administration Report of 1919-20 was brought down to the end of 1920.

The present summary deals with the calendar year 1921.

work of the Council was largely limited to recommendations by way of resolutions and general criticism of the policy of Government. The only legislative projects placed before the Council were—

(*i*) the Deputy President's Emoluments Bill, the Bengal Land Registration (Amendment) Bill, and the Bengal Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, which were passed into law;

(*ii*) the Bengal Children Bill, which was introduced and taken through Select Committee;

(*iii*) the Calcutta Municipal Bill, which produced an animated debate on the motion, which was eventually carried, for circulation for public opinion; and

(*iv*) the Bengal Aerial Ropeways Bill, which was introduced.

Notice of two Bills was given by non-official members, one—the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, which was thrown out at the first reading, and the other—the Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration Bill, which was introduced.

Notice was received of 505 resolutions during the year, of which 157 were discussed; 69 were carried; 18 lost and 70 withdrawn. One thousand two hundred and ninety-three questions were also asked during the year, and the Council's powers in the matter of finance were exercised in connection with the fixing of the salaries of the Deputy President of the Council and of the Ministers; in motions for reduction of grants at the time of the budget, and in similar motions in regard to supplementary grants. There was a keen discussion on the question of the Ministers' salaries, and the motions to reduce these were eventually defeated by a large majority. The most important reduction of a grant was a comprehensive cut of 23 lakhs under the head "Police," a reserved subject. A motion for the adjournment of the House followed as a result of this reduction, and the subsequent debate showed that a large number of members who had voted for the reduction wished to reconsider their position if they could obtain further details in regard to the requirements of the Police Department. His Excellency the Governor was approached in this matter by various non-official members and agreed to convene a special session in April, at which the Council restored the amount, except for a few reductions in matters of detail. The decision of the Council in regard to the stopping of work on the partition of Mymensingh was accepted by His Excellency the Governor, but certain expenditure was certified so as to enable the work to be closed down. The expenditure for the creation of the new District Headquarter at Hijli was certified by His Excellency, but in view of the financial position, he subsequently decided to postpone any further expenditure on this project. A sum of nearly 3 lakhs was also certified in connection with the

acquisition of land for police buildings in Calcutta, and the refusal of the grant for the residence of the Chief Justice necessitated an expenditure of over a lakh to meet liabilities incurred. His Excellency also exercised his powers of restoration on the " reserved " side in respect of some part of the grants for a few other items. Competitive designs for the proposed new Chamber for the Council were received from architects both in England and India and were judged by the Consulting Architect to this Government.

3. **Non-co-operation.**—An account was given last year of the beginnings in the year 1920 of the non-co-operation movement in Bengal which was started with a view to putting pressure on Government to remedy specific grievances on account of the misfortunes of Turkey and of the troubles in the Punjab. The movement was not, however, indigenous to Bengal, and it was not till the commencement of the year 1921 that it began to obtain a firm footing in the province. This change was due to the success of the Extremist non-co-operators at the Nagpur Congress which was held at the close of the year 1920 and to the complete conversion of a prominent Bengalee Extremist to the movement. At the same time the character of the movement changed into an avowed attempt to paralyse and destroy the existing Government by means of non-co-operation; *swaraj* was proclaimed as attainable within a year. The movement was engineered and fostered by numerous meetings and violent speeches, by the activities of agitators undisguised or in the guise of *fakirs* and *sadhus* stirring up trouble in the villages, by the formation of corps of volunteers and by a campaign of wilful misrepresentation and intimidation. It received a stimulus from the economic pressure caused by the high cost of living and from the general industrial discontent. Nominally non-violent, it was provocative of violence, serious disorder, loss of life and the growth of a dangerous spirit of lawlessness.

The year opened with a general strike of students who had been duped into the belief that they would be able to continue their education in national colleges;* this eventually failed. This was followed by a series of industrial strikes† culminating in the engineering of the exodus of coolies from the tea-gardens of Sylhet and in the purely political strikes on the steamer and railway lines in Eastern Bengal called as part of the general *hartal* declared in connection with that exodus. In both these cases the efforts of the non-co-operators were productive of much misery. The strikes failed, as the men had no legitimate cause for complaint; many of them realized too late that they had lost their means of livelihood and that in return the non-co-operators had nothing to give them. Meanwhile the

* *Vide* paragraph 29.

† *Vide* paragraph 16.

general public were put to considerable inconvenience; and many publicists, of varying shades of opinion, were led to denounce the inducement of strikes for political ends. The case of the exodus of coolies was even more pathetic, as they spent what little money they had and arrived in Bengal in varying stages of poverty unable to proceed any further to their homes without the assistance of private charity. They were a danger both to themselves and the public from disease and epidemic, a danger which, despite the efforts of Government to mitigate it, was intensified by the conduct of the local non-co-operators. There was great suffering; many unnecessary deaths occurred; and many became homeless beggars. Other manifestations of the movement were outbreaks in jails;* the agitation against village self-government in the district of Midnapore;† the opposition to the beginning of settlement operations in the districts of Bogra and Birbhum, and early in November an attack on the police by a Khilafat mob in Howrah leading to a serious disturbance in which several persons were killed and wounded. The boycott of foreign goods was given a temporary impulse and there were some bonfires of foreign cloth, but it was not popular. Attempts were made to undermine the loyalty of the police, but with negligible results. Amongst the chief incidents of the movement were the attempt to boycott the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught at the end of January, an attempt which was only partially successful as there was a fair number of spectators on the day of his arrival; the *hartal* of the 17th November which, from the point of view of non-co-operation, was very successful, as the public life of the city of Calcutta was entirely paralysed; and the unsuccessful attempt to boycott the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

At first attempts were made by Government to check the spread of the movement by the ordinary law, and counter-propaganda was conducted by the formation of loyalist leagues and the holding of meetings to expose the fallacies of the movement. But the progress made on these lines was disappointing and by the month of November the movement had become dangerous; it was firmly and widely established; the inevitable accompaniment of the movement had been violence; it was concentrating on the masses, who under the influence of constant misrepresentation and agitation, were getting out of control. More active steps were therefore taken. Control was exercised over the holding of meetings and processions in Calcutta and in the district of Howrah; those corps of volunteers, whose interference with the law-abiding public had become pronounced, were proclaimed as unlawful assemblies under Part II of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908; more numerous arrests were made and the local leaders were apprehended and

* *Vide* paragraph 13.
† *Vide* paragraph 26.

sent up for trial. At the same time the citizens of Calcutta formed a Civil Guard to take precautions for the provision of public services in the event of *hartals* and to initiate counter-propaganda against the campaign of intimidation. At that time Government had no publicity bureau; but all the wilful misrepresentation spread about Government and their policy by non-co-operators and others and the calumny of a certain section of the press and of certain public speakers point to the necessity of the re-establishment of such a bureau for the dissemination of correct information.

4. **Visit of the Prince of Wales.**—The great event of the year was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who arrived in Calcutta on the 24th December and left on the 31st after completing a full and strenuous programme of public activity. For weeks the non-co-operators had been endeavouring by persuasion, intimidation and the dissemination of wild rumours to secure a complete *hartal* on the 24th December and a boycott of the functions arranged in honour of the Prince. The power of Government was deliberately challenged; and besides others, paid mill coolies and other low class persons were employed to parade the streets as volunteers openly pursuing the objects of the proclaimed associations and courting arrest, so that the jails might become overcrowded and Government forced to abandon its active policy. All these efforts failed, and the police, with the valuable assistance of the Civil Guard, proved equal to the occasion; confidence was restored and the visit was most successful. Large crowds attended all the functions, but the culmination of his successful visit was reached at the pageant on the Maidan on the afternoon of the 27th. There was a spontaneous demonstration and the police on duty had the utmost difficulty in keeping back the crowd, which burst inwards in its desire to approach the Royal carriage. There was no other function during the visit at which such a demonstration was possible, but His Royal Highness was again warmly welcomed on proceeding to open the Victoria Memorial on the 28th December.

5. **The Victoria Memorial.**—The Victoria Memorial, a " great national memorial designed to commemorate for all time the splendour and achievements of Her reign," was formally opened by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the 28th December 1921 at a brilliant ceremony. His Excellency the Governor described it in his speech as a treasure house wherein would be displayed a collection of pictures, statues, historical documents and other objects of interest illustrative of Indian history and especially of that of the Victorian Era. Its conception was due to Lord Curzon, the architect was Sir William Emerson and the builders were Messrs. Martin and Company. The cost was borne by voluntary subscription from all parts of India.

6. **The economic position.**—Last year stock was taken of the economic position, as it was affected by the high prices caused by the war, and it was held that there had been less economic stress than during the previous year 1919, that the adjustment of wages to prices had been for the most part effected and that cultivators had benefited by the high prices obtainable for their produce. There are indications that the economic pressure continued to decrease. The process of adjustment of wages to prices went on. In particular, the Government of Bengal sanctioned a substantial increase in the wages of its menial establishment and took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to advise them on the salaries of ministerial officers. The price of rice and pulses fell though not to the pre-war level. The control of the Government of India over the exports of rice to foreign countries was maintained, but the control over rice between Burma and India was removed. Then the agricultural outlook for the year was favourable, despite the unequal distribution of the rainfall throughout the province; the winter rice crop of 1920-21 was decidedly satisfactory, whilst the estimated outturn of winter rice for the year 1921-22 is better than that for the exceptional year 1917-18. Further, the year as compared with recent years was unusually free from floods and other visitations of nature and from the kind of acute distress contemplated by the Famine Code, though in some 60 square miles of the district of Khulna, which had been inundated, it was necessary to take active measures for relief. Also there was an increase in the birth-rate and a corresponding decrease in the death-rate. Finally, the problem of high prices received less attention from the public than it had attracted in previous years. On the other hand a large proportion of the cultivators in Eastern Bengal have been seriously affected by the slump in jute prices, there was a considerable reduction in the area under jute and persons on fixed incomes continued to be hit by the prevalent high prices, or, properly speaking, by the difference between the post and pre-war value of money.

7. **The financial position.**—The question of ways and means of dealing with the peculiar financial difficulties in which the reforms scheme had placed this Government was the subject of very serious consideration during the year. Some account was given last year of the progress of the negotiations regarding the provincial settlement, and it was anticipated that the prospect for the year 1921 could cause serious concern. This prophecy has been unfortunately more than fulfilled. The budget for the year 1921-22 showed a deficit of $2\frac{1}{8}$ crores, a deficit which later on appeared to be likely to increase on account of the general financial depression with its resultant adverse effects on the revenues of the province. The temporary expedient of meeting the deficit from the provincial balance will, it is anticipated, lead to a reduction of the balance of over $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores which existed at the

beginning of the financial year to a figure little more than half a crore at the end. Accordingly, early steps were again taken to impress the Government of India with the gravity of the situation, and finally towards the middle of the year 1921 a deputation waited on the Viceroy at Simla. As a result of this conference the Government of India agreed to waive their claim for the contribution of Rs. 63 lakhs from Bengal for a period of three years, with effect from the year 1922-23. At the same time the possibility of retrenchment was considered; the requirements of every department were rigidly scrutinised and all expenditure that could possibly be avoided without causing serious administrative inconvenience was retrenched. *Inter alia,* the proposal for the creation of a new district of Hijli has been kept in abeyance, the construction of the Grand Trunk Canal has been postponed pending a further examination into the productive aspects of the project, and the programme for the preparation of a record-of-right for the province has been halved. As even these measures left a considerable deficit, all sources for augmenting revenue were explored and finally proposals were made for levying a tax on amusements and for raising the duties under general and court-fee stamps. These proposals were laid before the Legislative Council in legislative form just after the close of the year.

8. **Exports and imports.**—The year was one of world-wide trade depression, which is clearly reflected in the trade statistics of the port of Calcutta, particularly in the case of exports, the value of which, owing to the withdrawal of foreign buyers, fell sharply from Rs. 121·27 crores to Rs. 82·29 crores. The decline in imports was less marked, being from Rs. 114·82 crores to Rs. 108·63 crores. The very small trade balance obtained in 1920 has been lost and the year closed with an excess of imports over exports of Rs. 26·34 crores, or 25 per cent. of the imports. The total coasting trade improved from Rs. 31·86 crores to Rs. 36·74 crores due chiefly to heavy shipments of rice to Karachi and Madras ports, which were the only places in the mainland of India from which exports to the Persian Gulf and Ceylon were permitted. Transactions in treasure show wide fluctuations. Imports of silver decreased from Rs. 37 lakhs to Rs. 34 lakhs and of gold from Rs. 3·33 crores to Rs. 15 lakhs only. On the export side gold shipments dropped from Rs. 1·11 crores to Rs. 99 lakhs, and silver from Rs. 1·52 crores to Rs. 14 lakhs. The net result was an excess of exports of treasure over imports amounting to Rs. 65 lakhs. The figures for the import trade show very striking declines in most of the principal articles, largely set off by no less striking advances under a few other heads. The value of machinery, railway plant and rolling stock was doubled; receipts of sugar advanced from 195,000 tons to 351,644 tons, though the increase in value, viz., from Rs. 8·76 crores to Rs. 11·43 crores, was not proportionate owing to a great fall in prices; and imports of grain and pulse, negligible in 1920,

advanced to more than a crore in value owing to purchases of wheat from Australia. All other principal articles declined; the heaviest decreases were under cotton manufactures, including twist and yarn (from Rs. 40 crores to Rs. 29 crores), which was due to lower prices, as the yardage of piece-goods only declined from 698 to 683 million yards, or by 2 per cent., while the value dropped by 26 per cent. Metals showed a very noticeable drop in receipts of brass, copper, and iron and steel; and the value of motor-cars fell from Rs. 2·85 crores to Rs. 74 lakhs. Other noticeable decreases were under tobacco, mineral oil, motor tyres and tubes, hardware and silk manufactures. Imports from Germany showed a falling off under salt, cotton-goods and wood-pulp, but a marked recovery under iron and steel, hardware, glassware, paper, aniline dyes and chemicals did more than redress the balance.

Except for tea, which improved from Rs. 8 crores to Rs. 13 crores, all the principal exports were much depressed, the heaviest decreases being under jute manufactures, which fell by Rs. 26 crores, raw jute by Rs. 4 crores, linseed by Rs. 2 crores, and hides and skins and lac by Rs. 1 crore each. The prohibition on the foreign export of coal caused a further reduction of one crore. A feature of the export trade has been the notable revival in shipments to Germany, chiefly under raw jute and cowhides. Shipments of the former expanded from 46,883 tons to 134,688 tons, and of the latter from 2,252 tons to 8,993 tons; but towards the close of the year there was a marked slackening off on account of the depreciation in the sterling value of the mark. Re-exports of Java sugar from Calcutta, which totalled 25,254 tons in 1920, only amounted to 665 tons in 1921 (mostly to Ceylon); the United States, which took 17,997 tons in 1920, did not require a single ton.

9. **Exchange.**—The rate of 1*s.* 5*d.* to a rupee ruling at the close of 1920 was not long maintained. Exchange had dropped to 1*s.* 4*d.* by the end of January and touched 1*s.* 3*d.* by the middle of February, at which figure, except for a drop to 1*s.* 2*d.* on the 7th of March, it was maintained till the middle of August. It then recovered to 1*s.* 4*d.* reaching 1*s.* 5*d.* in September; but in October it declined and November saw it back to 1*s.* 3*d.*, at which quotation it closed the year.

10. **Port of Calcutta.**—With the introduction of the reforms scheme the port of Calcutta was declared to be a major port. Its administration has become a central subject and the local Government only exercise their functions as agents of the Government of India.

The year 1921 was the 50th year of the life of the Calcutta Port Trust and was marked by an important change in its administration by the appointment of a whole-time salaried Chairman in place of a part-time

Chairman who had hitherto been the chief executive officer of the Trust. The income of the port during the financial year 1920-21 was the highest attained in the history of the Trust, but owing to the decline in trade the operations of the Trust have been carried out at a loss since the beginning of April 1921 and the deficit on the Trust's working amounted at the end of November 1921 to about Rs. 26 lakhs. To meet this deficit a higher scale of charges on account of river dues has been sanctioned by Government pending a review by the Port Commissioners of the whole financial position and the exploration of additional sources of revenue.

Some progress was made towards the construction of a bridge to replace the present Howrah bridge. It was decided on the advice of a Committee which sat at the beginning of the rains that an opening span in the new bridge was not essential for the work of the port. In November another Committee was appointed to advise on the type of bridge to be adopted.

The rules for the recruitment of candidates for the Bengal Pilot Service were revised so as to facilitate the entry of natives of India into that service.

11. **Port of Chittagong.**—Under the reforms scheme the Port of Chittagong was not declared to be a major port and the responsibility for its administration and financial control devolved on the local Government. The position is undergoing examination as the result of the inability of the local Government to provide funds for the development of the port.

12. **Jails.**—The year 1921 was one of unusual activity in the Jail Department; and many changes were initiated as a result of the recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee. The main problem which has for several years confronted the Jail Department is that of overcrowding, a problem which the conclusions of the Committee show is not likely to be solved without much expenditure. In particular, the decision to abandon Port Blair and the Andamans as a penal settlement will involve the erection of a new Central Jail at a considerable cost, whilst many improvements have been kept in abeyance for lack of funds. Arrangements were, however, made for the retransfer from the Andamans to Bengal of political prisoners, female convicts and other persons whose retransfer was considered necessary on medical grounds. Minor improvements recommended by the Committee which could be effected without much expenditure have been given effect to as far as practicable. To meet the religious demands of Muhammadan convicts, they have been provided with long trousers instead of shorts. In every jail where they are available honorary Moslem preachers have been appointed for giving moral and religious instruction to the Muhammadan prisoners on Fridays. The burial of dead Muhammadan

prisoners according to Muhammadan customs at the expense of Government has been sanctioned. Sikh prisoners have been allowed to retain certain of their religious symbols, and facilities for the religious observances of prisoners of the various castes are allowed in all jails. Female non-official visitors were appointed in a few jails, principally in Calcutta.

13. **Jails and non-co-operation.**—There was a serious outbreak in the Central Jail at Rajshahi where the non-co-operation rumour had spread that the British Government had come to an end and that all prisoners were to be released. On the 24th March 1921, 669 out of 969 prisoners escaped by breaking through the inner barriers and forcing the outer gate. Steps were taken immediately for their recapture and within twenty days 446 were recaptured. A few more were recaptured later. The two ringleaders in the conspiracy were sentenced to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment each and the rest were also suitably punished. Outbreaks occurred subsequently on a smaller scale in the sub-jails at Sirajganj and Netrokona in the districts of Pabna and Mymensingh. There were also conspiracies in Dinajpur, Rangpur, Midnapore and Barisal which were suppressed in time.

14. **The Industrial position.**—The year opened unfavourably. The balance of trade was turning against India and the rate of exchange was falling steadily, with the result that the strain on the money-market, which was the characteristic feature of the year, had a retarding influence on the industrial activities of the province. These activities were still further impeded by the prevalent labour unrest, the frequent dislocations of means of communication owing to strikes, and a shortage of wagons. The prosperity of the jute mills, due to war demands, practically disappeared; and the effect of labour unrest and wagon shortage was particularly marked in coal mining. Moreover, only 223 companies were registered between the 1st April and the 31st December—an average of about 25 companies a month against 40 of the previous year. Nevertheless, and despite temporary setbacks, there was a continued development of the industrial awakening of Bengal. One of its most noticeable features was the promotion of new companies to work rice mills, oil mills and lac factories in the mufassal, where raw materials are available at a low price. Several companies were promoted for making paints and soaps; and the manufacture of the chemicals of caffein and bichromate salts was started on a commercial scale. Companies are at work manufacturing machinery for the tea industry and spare parts, replacements and repairs for mill and other similar machinery. The results of the experiments of making paper pulp from bamboo have encouraged the manufacturers to prepare to extend these operations on a commercial scale. Where the road communications are good, motor transport is beginning to take the place of bullock carts. The cottage industry of match-

making, notwithstanding previous failures, appears to have been attended with some success. Hand-looms for weavers are finding favour; and several engineering firms started the manufacture of looms and accessories.

15. **Calcutta Research Tannery.**—Though many tanneries that were started with high hopes passed through a crisis and a number of well-equipped tanneries had to close down, the work done by the Calcutta Research Tannery is encouraging. It has conducted systematic investigations on suitable raw materials and proper tanning methods. During the year special attention was paid to the study of goran bark and tannery waters and to the manufacture of sole leathers and glacé kids. Apprentices were trained and demonstrations of improved processes were given in several exhibitions. In this connection it is noteworthy that an up-to-date boot-making factory has been started in Calcutta, and that another has been opened for turning out jute-rope soled canvas boots and shoes.

16. **Labour.**—One hundred and forty-two strikes, involving about 211,800 workpeople, were recorded during the year. Only half of these against almost all in 1920 were due to disputes regarding emoluments or leave or hours of work; approximately two-thirds against about one-fifth in 1920 resulted in the return of the men to work without having gained anything; several were prolonged and two were occasioned by purely political influences. The most important were prolonged; they occurred in three railway workshops, a Government Rifle Factory, three private engineering works, the Calcutta Tramways, the Assam-Bengal Railway and the Inland Steamer Services in Eastern Bengal (these two were purely political, *vide* paragraph 3). Outside influences, partly political, are believed to have prolonged the strikes in the Railway Workshops and the Rifle Factory, all but one of which ended in the complete failure of the strikers. There were a number of strikes in jute mills, coal mines and tea gardens, but none calling for any particular comment. Twice in April and again in November, there were brief stoppages of work in a number of establishments (not recorded as strikes) in connection with all-India *hartals* called by the Congress Party.

There was no marked progress in the growth of labour associations. Several that had come into existence during the disputes of the previous year disappeared, a few were weakened by internal quarrels, and the only new noteworthy associations were a number of unions of Uriya labour in Calcutta started towards the end of the year. The Indian Seamen's Union showed an interest in the doings of the Geneva Conference, and several associations passed resolutions demanding a Workmen's Compensation Act and the conferment upon trade unions of legal status.

The principal development of the year was the initiation of a system for dealing with labour disputes. At the instance of the Legislative Council

(which contained two nominated representatives of labour), a committee reviewed the strikes of the previous year and advocated the bringing of important industrial disputes, at any rate in public utility services, before conciliation boards to be selected from a general panel composed of suitable public men and labour representatives. It likewise advocated the creation, wherever feasible, of Joint Works Committees for the settlement of disputes at their inception and the general promotion of good feeling between employers and their workpeople. The panel was duly constituted, and a bulletin of suggestions on works committees, with a draft model constitution for a jute mill, was published and supplied to employers and labour associations. During the first seven months of the year the issues in three important strikes were, by the consent of both sides, referred to committees. In a motor drivers' strike the men resumed work on the undertaking (which they observed) that they would abide by the decisions of a committee as to certain proposed new motor-vehicle rules; in a tram strike, work was resumed on a similar agreement regarding certain industrial demands; and in a light railway strike, work was resumed and the dispute settled by reference of the case to a formally constituted conciliation board. In a renewed and unsuccessful tram strike towards the end of the year, the strikers asked for a conciliation board; but this was refused by Government in a published review of the issues, which carried public opinion with it and did much to define the limits within which interference was legitimately permissible.

17. **Work of the Agricultural Department.**—The Agricultural Department continues to obtain excellent results; and one of its most important problems is the provision of a sufficient quantity of these excellent results in the shape of new and improved varieties of seed, for which there is an expanding and remarkable demand. A scheme was therefore drawn up by the Director of Agriculture for utilising private agencies for this purpose. The central experimental stations will supply seed to the district farms, which are already being established, one in each district at the rate of two or three a year so far as funds permit. These farms in turn will distribute it to private farms established through the agency of zamindars, khas mahals, court of wards estates and co-operative agricultural associations, where the seed will be propagated for a further period before distribution to the cultivators. Good progress has already been made in the organization of these seed farms in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. The new races of jute, R. 85 and D. 154, were propagated on an extended scale. These are expected to prove superior to the well-known race of *Kakya Bombai*, as they not only give a somewhat better yield, but are immune from attacks of the disease of *chlorosis*. New varieties of rice which suit certain localities better than *Indrasail* and *Kataktara* were tested

and propagated. A definite stage of progress was also reached in the selection of *rabi* pulses and oilseeds. The expansion of small village agricultural associations of practical agriculturists, which has been a feature of the department during recent years, continued; and in order both to secure the permanence of these associations and to give each member a personal interest in their success, it was decided that they should in future be organised on a co-operative basis. An agricultural vernacular school was opened at Chinsura of the same type as that which had been previously opened at Dacca. Both schools, however, proved too costly, and it was decided to convert them into secondary agricultural schools, where *gurus* and demonstrators and cultivators, desiring a higher course of education, could be trained. For elementary agricultural education, a scheme for a cheaper type of school is being worked out. Cattle-breeding operations continued at the Rangpur farm, and the first batch of twelve half-bred Hissar bulls was sent out and stationed at various farms and veterinary dispensaries in North Bengal.

The post of Deputy Director of Sericulture was filled up. This post, the necessity of which has been recognised for many years, was created with a view to counteracting the diminution of silk production, so noticeable in Bengal before the war, by placing an officer in special charge to organize the Sericultural Department properly and to co-ordinate its activities. The demand for departmental seed-cocoons exceeded the supply.

18. **Co-operative movement.**—The impulse given to the co-operative movement in 1920 was followed by a reaction in 1921 on account of the depression in trade, attended in Eastern Bengal with low prices for jute which seriously affected the jute cultvators. One result was an increase in the demand for loans which severely strained the resources available to meet it. Repayments also were poor; but in rice-growing districts, owing to the good harvest, they have been very fair. The number of co-operative stores, which was a special feature of the year 1920 and was designed as a palliative to the prevalent high prices, increased still further but with unfortunate results. Owing to bad management, etc., out of over one hundred stores less than ten can be called successful and not more than four have really justified their existence. On the other hand, successes have to be recorded in the expansion of the weaving industry in the district of Bankura by means of Weavers' Societies, in the rapidly expanding business of the Khepupara Supply and Sale Society, in the development of the credit societies of Calcutta, and in the very satisfactory position of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Federation. The financial position of the movement is as sound as it was a year ago and, in the matter of quantity, the movement, in spite of the continuance of caution in registration, shows a

steady and satisfactory growth. Societies were not seriously affected by the non-co-operation movement, but the Naugaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society passed through a severe crisis owing to efforts to spread the non-co-operation movement through the area. They completely failed; and there is every reason to hope that the society will continue its former prosperous career. The crisis through which the Milk Societies near Calcutta were passing in 1920 is now past.

19. **Public Health.**—The health of the province was better during 1921 than in either of the three preceding years. There was an increase in the birth-rate and a corresponding decline in the death-rate, though conditions are not yet normal and a number of districts continue to show a regrettable excess of deaths over births. Cholera was, however, considerably more prevalent than in the previous year. In the district of Howrah a very successful campaign of cholera control was carried out by the health officer of the district board of Howrah during the year. Also in Tangail, in the district of Mymensingh, which was specially affected, energetic preventive measures in regard to disinfection and the sterilisation of water supplies were adopted by the district board, aided by the Public Health Department, and, as a result, the epidemic had largely abated at the close of the year. Small-pox was generally much less prevalent throughout the province than in 1919 or 1920, the mortality from this cause in 1921 being only about 20 per cent. of that in each of the two former years. Deaths reported under the head of fevers showed some decrease when compared with the previous two years. Influenza was considerably less prevalent than in 1920, though the district of Darjeeling suffered from a severe outbreak of the disease during the early part of the year.

20. **Sanitary measures.**—The year 1921 was one of much activity in various directions in the Department of Public Health, a department in which the public of Bengal take considerable interest, particularly in measures appertaining to matters anti-malarial. The whole question of malaria and its prevention is fraught with great difficulty on account of the costliness of the most direct methods. An exhaustive report has been prepared by the Director of Public Health, Dr. Bentley, which at the close of the year was in the press. This will pave the way for the definition and declaration of a forward policy in this important matter. Meanwhile, however, district boards were requested to hold conferences to formulate anti-malarial measures and schemes of water-supply for their district and to consider how they should be financed; a malaria observatory to collect and correlate for a definite area the various data relating to malaria, such as the amount of sickness, the prevalence of the anopheles mosquito, rainfall, etc., has been established at Sonarpur; and, as a result of the deliberations

of the Committee appointed to advise Government in regard to the reorganisation of the Sanitary Department, an additional malaria research officer was sanctioned. Various other reforms were introduced on the recommendations of this Committee: three Assistant Directors of Public Health were appointed to deal respectively with vital statistics and vaccination, industrial hygiene and school hygiene; and the Port Health Department under the Director of Public Health was reorganised and two more Port Health Officers were appointed for Calcutta.

Public analysts were appointed under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act (B.C. VI of 1919), the operation of which had been extended to all municipalities in 1920 and to the Asansol Mining Settlement area in 1921. One result has been a marked improvement in the quality of retail mustard oil. Free and compulsory vaccination was introduced by the extension of the Bengal Vaccination Act (B.C. V of 1880), as amended by Act II of 1911 throughout the districts of Bengal. The survey of the disease of kala-azar was completed in several districts; in Tangail in Mymensingh it is proposed to establish a laboratory for the microscopic examination of blood in suspected cases of kala-azar so as to facilitate the diagnosis between that disease and malaria. The anti-cholera measures adopted at the Ganga Saugor *mêla* by the district board of the 24-Parganas in conjunction with the Port Health Officer of Calcutta met with marked success.

Rules under the new Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act (B.C. VI of 1920) were published; and the important anti-malarial sanitary schemes which had been undertaken under the previous Drainage Act, but which had not been completed, were brought under the new Act. The question of introducing legislation on the lines of the Bengal Mining Settlement Act for the sanitation of the Duars was considered and a Bill (the Duars Tea Gardens Sanitation Bill) was prepared. The Sanitary Board was reconstituted during the year.

21. **Medical.**—The School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, was formally opened on the 15th November 1921, with the minimum staff required for the course of training for the diploma of Tropical Medicine. Research work has been started at the same institution out of the funds contributed by the different Indian Tea, Jute and Mining Associations and by certain private firms and gentlemen. The Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases was also opened in the same month. A scheme for the establishment of a dental school in connection with the Calcutta Medical College was sanctioned at an approximate cost of a little over 10 lakhs, but it has been held in abeyance on account of the present financial stringency.

A new medical school at Burdwan, called the "Ronaldshay Medical School," with accommodation for teaching 200 students was formally opened in July. This was established with the object of meeting the demand of a sufficient number of qualified medical practitioners in rural areas, a problem which has recently received the earnest attention of Government. Proposals for the establishment of medical schools elsewhere are under the consideration of a committee appointed by Government, whilst definite progress has been made towards the establishment of a school at Mymensingh. A scheme which was drawn up by the Surgeon-General in consultation with the Mission to Lepers in India, has been sanctioned by Government for the establishment of a leper colony in the district of Midnapore to replace the inadequate arrangements and insufficient accommodation of the present leper asylums. The cost will amount to a little over five lakhs. Steps are being taken to acquire land for the scheme.

22. **District Boards.**—The policy of removing them from official tutelage was further pursued both in the case of district and local boards. In the case of district boards, the privilege of electing their own chairman from amongst the non-official members was extended to the five remaining boards which had it not. In the case of local boards orders were issued that no official member of a local board should stand for election as its chairman, and that the existing official chairmen, viz., the subdivisional officers, should make room for non-officials. To secure a substantial elective majority, the proportion of elected members of fourteen district boards was raised from one-half to two-thirds; their strength as well as that of the local boards subordinate to them was also increased. It was decided that the remaining boards should be brought on the same footing when they are next reconstituted. Local boards were established in four subdivisions where there had been none before, and as a first step towards the development of local self-government in Darjeeling it was decided that a district board should be formed for that district with three subdivisional local boards. The original twenty-five district boards had an income of Rs. 143 lakhs and incurred an expenditure of over Rs. 113 lakhs. The balance (30 lakhs) is not considered sufficient for these bodies to undertake anti-malarial and other measures for promoting the public health, and with a view to consider what means should be adopted for augmenting their resources and to discuss other administrative problems a conference of representatives of district boards was held for the second time under the presidency of the Minister for Local Self-Government.

23. **Muffasal municipalities.**—The number of municipalities increased from 115 to 116 in consequence of the establishment of one at Bhola. The elective system was introduced in Asansol and the number of municipalities

with an appointed chairman was reduced from twelve to five. The income of these bodies is more than Rs. 71 lakhs and the expenditure was nearly Rs. 63 lakhs. Many municipalities are too poor to be able to afford an up-to-date administration, but in many cases the commissioners are content with an income barely sufficient for the minimum requirements of municipal administration. Aversion to higher taxation is a common feature of municipal work.

24. **Calcutta Corporation.**—The Calcutta Corporation continued to be capably administered and many schemes of improvement were undertaken. The original water-supply extension scheme, which was estimated to cost Rs. 330 lakhs, was dropped and a modified scheme costing a little over two crores was sanctioned. The scheme, which will take five years to complete, involves an increased expenditure for loan charges and working expenses of nearly Rs. 20 lakhs a year. The Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, has been in force since 1900, and the constitution which it prescribes is no longer suited to modern conditions. A Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Council in November 1921, was accordingly framed bringing the municipal administration into line with the reforms scheme of Government and providing for a more democratic constitution. If this Bill is enacted, the number of members of the Corporation will be raised from 50 to 80, of which nine-tenths will be elected by the different constituencies and the remaining eight appointed by Government.

25. **Calcutta Improvement Trust.**—The financial position of the Trust was seriously affected by the fall in the value of money and the rise in the cost of building materials and in the rate of interest at which money could be borrowed. The decision that the demolition of houses acquired in connection with improvement schemes should not be undertaken so long as persons who would be dishoused found it impossible to rebuild at a reasonable price, also affected the purse of the Trust seriously as the decision results in a considerable amount of capital spent in land acquisition being locked up instead of being returned with a profit. It was therefore decided to proceed with the construction of main roads in the centre of the city in preference to the development of suburban areas. The scarcity of house accommodation and the abnormal increase in house-rent induced the Trust to undertake several rehousing schemes, some of which are nearing completion; but the connected proposal mentioned last year that building companies should be assisted by Government in acquiring land under the Land Acquisition Act for approved housing schemes had to be withdrawn on account of legal difficulties. An area of about 225 bighas of land to the north of the city was acquired by the Trust for a park and recreation ground.

26. **Village self-government.**—The number of village authorities known as union boards continued to increase, rising from 1,500 to more than 2,000, and some more were in process of creation. Though these institutions are in their infancy, many of them have shown a remarkable aptitude for managing their own local affairs. The union boards however of the district of Midnapore were discontinued owing to the unwillingness—created by the misrepresentations of non-co-operators—of the villagers to avail themselves of the privileges of the Village Self-Government Act. It is not the policy of Government to force these institutions on the villagers where they show no manifest willingness to avail themselves of the privileges offered to them. Seventy-five union benches were established in the districts of Dacca, Tippera and Burdwan to try petty civil and criminal cases.

27. **The Dacca University.**—The event of the year in the educational world of Bengal was the inauguration of the Dacca University, with effect from the 1st July 1921. The scheme for the University had been originally worked out by a Committee, who submitted their report in 1913, but owing to the war it remained in abeyance pending the report of the Calcutta University Commission by whom it was examined during their visit to India in 1917 and 1918. Their recommendations were duly considered; and an Act designed to give effect to them was passed in the Imperial Legislative Council in 1920. The University is a self-governing institution; and, though it is not intended to be purely denominational, it should prove of great benefit to the Muhammadan population of Eastern Bengal. It comprises the Dacca and the Jagannath Halls and it has established Faculties in Arts, Science and Law. Simultaneously, a Board of Secondary and Intermediate Education was temporarily appointed for the control of such education within the Dacca University area.

28. **Primary Education.**—In primary education the most important feature of the year was the publication of the report of Mr. E. E. Biss, a member of the Educational Service, who had been deputed to ascertain the condition of elementary education in each district board and municipal area and to work out definite and detailed proposals for the expansion of compulsory primary education. Several detailed schemes have been worked out; and Government made an offer of half of the capital and recurring cost, but the municipalities hesitated to commit themselves to any large expenditure. A scheme for the improvement of primary education in Calcutta has, however, been approved by both Government and the Calcutta Corporation at a capital cost of Rs. 20$\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs and an ultimate recurring cost of Rs. 4$\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs.

The Committee appointed by Government to frame proposals for the reorganisation of the educational services below the Bengal Educational

Service have submitted their report and the details of the scheme are under consideration.

29. **Education and non-co-operation.**—Though the non-co-operation movement, so far as schools and colleges are concerned, had proved almost a total failure in the year 1920, there was in January 1921, a recrudescence of the movement in an acute form. The authorities of certain colleges in Calcutta, with a view to their nationalisation and on a promise from a prominent non-co-operator to bear all deficits before the changes were introduced, agreed to withdraw their institutions from the Calcutta University system. The demand for the nationalisation of colleges then started in other colleges; students withdrew in large numbers from them and excitement rapidly spread. The strike was not, however, universal in Calcutta; the conduct of the students of the Presidency College, despite the persistent annoyance of non-co-operators, was unexceptionable. But almost all the Calcutta colleges were closed and the students dispersed to their homes, in order that their parents might bring a salutary influence to bear upon them and in order to relieve unaffected students from the daily and intolerable strain. Outside Calcutta, the non-co-operation movement in colleges was practically universal, though in varying degrees of acuteness; it also found an echo in numerous schools. Eventually, the excitement died down for lack of stimulus, when it had run its course and the national colleges promised by the non-co-operators did not materialise. The great bulk of the students remained unaffected, but the excitement has told on their attendance in various classes of institutions.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
Historical Summary.
Forms of Administration.
Character of Land Tenures; System of Surveys and Settlements.
Civil Divisions and British Territory.
Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

See—

General Administration Report for 191-112, Part II, Pages 1—134.

Changes in the Administration.

Executive Council and Ministers.

The Hon'ble Sir Charles James Stevenson-Moore, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., acted as a temporary Member of the Bengal Executive Council from the 8th May 1920 to the 2nd January 1921 in the permanent vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon'ble Sir John Ghest Cumming, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

On the establishment of the new Government the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr, C.S.I., C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur Rahim, KT., who were appointed by His Majesty the King-Emperor to be members of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, took their seats on the forenoon of 3rd January 1921.

The Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, KT., the Hon'ble Mr. Provas Chandra Mitter, C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., who were appointed by His Excellency the Governor to be Ministers, assumed their respective charges on the forenoon of the 3rd January 1921.

These charges were Local Self-Government and Public Health, Education and Agriculture and Public Works.

Bengal Legislative Council.

2. The outstanding event of the year under review was the establishment of the reformed Legislative Council under the Government of India Act, 1919.

The new Council consists of 139 members, of whom 113 are elected and the rest nominated. The constituencies returning the elected members number 113 and represent the following classes and interests:—

Representation.		Number of constituencies.	Number of seats.
Non-Muhammadan	Urban	11	11
	Rural	31	35
Muhammadan	Urban	6	6
	Rural	28	33
Landholders		5	5
University		1	1
European general		3	5
„ commerce		5	11
Anglo-Indian		1	2
Indian commerce		3	4
	Total ...	94	113

The nominated members represent the following:—

Indian Christians	... 1
Depressed classes	... 1
Labour	... 2
Others	... 2 (not less than).
Officials, including *ex-officio* members	... 20 (not more than).

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda, K.C.I.E., was appointed by His Excellency to be the first President of the Bengal Legislative Council, and the Council elected Babu Surendra Nath Ray to be its Deputy President.

The Council was opened on the 1st February 1921 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

Representation of Bengal on the Indian Legislatures.

3. There are 14 constituencies of the Legislative Assembly in Bengal returning 17 members, the three constituencies of Indian commerce being entitled to representation in rotation.

Of the Council of State there are 5 constituencies in this Presidency returning 6 members.

The Governor-General has also nominated two officials and two non-officials from Bengal to the present Legislative Assembly, and one official and one non-official to the Council of State.

Relations with the Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1920-21.]

(Area, 1,307 square miles; chief produce, rice, jute and tobacco; population, 593,052; military force, 292 and 4 guns; annual revenue, Rs. 31,69,048; Ruling Chief—Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur; family, Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar.)

Maharaja's visit to Europe.

4. His Highness left for England in April 1920, and a third daughter was born to His Highness in England on the 5th July 1920. His Highness returned from England in February 1921.

Council.

5. The only change in the constitution of the State Council was caused by the death on the 7th November 1920 at Darjeeling of Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan. On the executive side 28 meetings were held against 36 of the previous year. At 6 of these meetings the Maharaja presided.

On the judicial side the Council held 36 meetings against 40 of the previous year.

State Railway.

6. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 3,19,424, while the working expenses were Rs. 1,46,802. The net earnings were 8·09 on the capital outlay against 9·9 of the previous year.

Finance.

7. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 31,69,048 against Rs. 32,30,074 in the previous year, while the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 35,76,095 against Rs. 31,44,820. The closing balance, inclusive of Government money and deposits, was Rs. 8,71,830.

Crops and condition of the people.

8. The jute crop, though adversely affected by the abnormal rainfall, yielded an outturn of about 75 per cent. of the normal, and the prices ranged between Rs. 4 and Rs. 10-8 per maund. The outturn of the winter crops was fairly good, and the price of common rice ranged between Rs. 5-4 and Rs. 10 per maund. The embargo placed in the previous year on the exportation of foodstuffs from the State was withdrawn, and the trade in the staple food grains returned to its normal condition. The general condition of the people was satisfactory.

Criminal Justice.

9. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,528 against 2,451 of the previous year. The percentage of conviction to total number of

persons tried was 55·3 against 55·1 of the previous year. The number of persons admitted into jails was 380 against 320 of the previous year.

10. The number of subdivisional higher English schools was 4 as in the previous year. and the total number of pupils attending them was 968. The total number of recognised primary schools was 273. The Victoria College continued to make satisfactory progress. **Education.**

11. The health of the people was, on the whole, good although sporadic cases of small-pox, cholera and influenza were reported from the interior. **Public Health.**

TRIPURA STATE.

[Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1920-21.]

(Area, 4,116 square miles; population, 303,801; revenue for the State, Rs. 13,20,201; revenue from zamindaries in British territory Rs. 10,87,044; chief products, rice and cotton; military strength 227 including officers; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Birendra Kishor Deb Barman Bahadur, Maharaja of Tripura, aged 38 years; family, Indo-Chinese; caste Kshatriya; has male heir; residence, Agartala.)

12. His Highness the Maharaja was present in Calcutta and Delhi in January 1920 to meet His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

13 Mr. J. Younie, I.C.S., was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Corbett as Political Agent in June 1920. **Political Agent.**

14. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 13,20,201 against Rs. 13,01,235 in the previous year and Rs. 11,36,650, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaries, with law charges recovered, refunds and deposits, amounted to Rs. 26,24,739, and the total amount available for expenditure, including an opening balance of Rs. 12,24,384, was Rs. 38,49,123 against Rs. 36,60,647 in the previous year. **Revenue and Finance.**

15. The total number of offences reported to the police was 1,502 against 1,336 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested and sent up was 987 and 1,063, respectively; of 1,063 persons sent up 497 were convicted and 313 persons awaited trial at the close of the year. The percentage of stolen property recovered was 37·88 against 20·34 in the previous year. **Protection.**

16. The rainfall was 93·22 inches as against 89·26 inches of the preceding year, the quinquennial average being 93·29 inches. The weather conditions were favourable for paddy but unfavourable to the other crops. Owing to rain in September the cotton crop was almost a failure. **Weather and Crop.**

17. Small-pox broke out in many places of the State, but fortunately the death-rate was very small. There was a small outbreak of cholera. **Public Health.**

18. The number of children attending schools in the State increased from 4,719 to 5,064. Weaving classes are going to be added to the Artisan school and all the high English schools in the State. **General.**

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1920-21.]

19. The uneven distribution of rain affected the crops in the Burdwan, Presidency and Dacca Divisions. In the Midnapore district, disastrous flood occurred necessitating relief operations which were concluded at the end of September. In the Khulna district the crops were entirely destroyed over an area of 50 square miles by an inundation of sea water and relief was found necessary beyond the end of the year. In the Dacca Division the jute crop was adversely affected by the untimely distribution of rain. In the other divisions, the cultivators in the Darjeeling district were unfavourably affected by the continued dullness of the cardamom market and in **Agricultural classes.**

Chandpur in the district of Tippera heavy rainfall damaged the standing crops; a sum of Rs. 21,840 was distributed in agricultural loans in areas adjoining the Meghna where jute is the staple crop. On the whole, despite the facts that the outturn was nominally below normal, the season was satisfactory for the rice crop and only other crops.

The price of jute fell, necessitating the distribution of agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 47,702 in the Dacca Division, otherwise the cultivators received high prices for their crops, but this was offset to a great extent by the rise in the prices of all necessaries of life, which told heavily on the poorer classes and on all persons with small fixed incomes.

Wages and salaries.

20. The demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was great as in the preceding year, but labour showed increasing signs of unrest during the year and organized itself in order to compel better terms. As a result there were numerous strikes which affected the large industries and factories and the railway companies in the Burdwan Division and most of the mills in the 24-Parganas. In Tippera the jute-baling industry provided employment to a large number of labourers at Chandpur and Akhaura, but the earnings of the tea garden coolies in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri were greatly reduced owing to the depression in the tea industry. As a result of expansion of the weaving industry in Bankura and certain other districts the weavers had an year of prosperity. The average earnings of the weavers in Bankura now range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per mensem whereas most of these men were earning less than Rs. 7 per mensem before, and that too, at spasmodic intervals.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1920-21.]

Total collections.

21. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 98, 674 against 98,368 in the previous year. Of these, 92,406 were permanently-settled estates, 3,825 temporarily-settled estates and 2,443 estates under direct management of Government. The net increase of 306 was due to partitions and to the creation of new estates by resumptions and settlements. The current demand of land revenue amounted to Rs. 2,78,72,204 showing an increase of Rs. 2,25,033 as compared with the previous year, which was due mostly to new settlements, re-settlements and progressive increase of demand in temporarily-settled and Government estates. The total realizable demand, including arrears of Rs. 16,89,121, was Rs. 2,95,61,325, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,78,98,555, being 94·37 of the total and 100·09 per cent. of the current demand against 93·36 and 100·85 per cent. respectively, in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 1,37,685, though collected within the year, could not be credited in the accounts of the year. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 1,20,694 against Rs. 3,31,623 in the year preceding, out of which the remission of Rs. 38,185 was only nominal. The total outstanding balance amounted to Rs. 15,42,076, being 5·21 per cent. of the total demand, against Rs. 16,48,655 in the previous year. Almost the whole of the balances is reported to be in process of recovery.

Collection in (a) Permanently-settled estates.

22. The total demand of permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,17,88,300 (Rs. 2,15,76,377 current and Rs. 2,11,923 arrear), of which Rs. 2,16,31,571 or 99·28 per cent. was collected. The current collections amounted to 98 per cent. or more of the current demand in all districts, except Chittagong (95·58) and the total balance (Rs. 1,56,438) represented ·72 per cent. of the demand.

(b) Temporarily-settled estates.

23. Temporarily-settled estates are divided into three sub-classes:— (*1*) private estates settled with proprietors, (*2*) private estates leased to farmers, and (*3*) Government estates leased to farmers. The total collections from these estates amounted to Rs. 18,14,614, being 98·03 per cent. of the current demand of Rs. 18,50,958 against 107·56 per cent. in the previous year. Of the total balance of Rs. 2,21,055, the sum of Rs. 2,12,381 is in process of recovery.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

24. The estates held direct by Government comprise two sub-classes:— (*1*) estates belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government, and (*2*) those owned by Government as proprietor. The total demand of these estates amounted to Rs. 57,13,700 (current Rs. 44,44,869 and arrear Rs. 12,68,831), of which Rs. 44,52,370 or 77·92 per cent. was collected, Rs. 96,747 remitted and Rs. 11,64,583 left unrealized at the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 1,00,110 was collected too late in the year to be credited in the accounts. The current collections showed an improvement, being 82·37 per cent. of the current demand against 80·09 of the previous year. The arrears collections, however, showed a falling off, which is attributed mainly to economic stress.

Miscellaneous land revenue

25. The total collections on account of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs 8,46,322 against Rs. 16,38,813 in the preceding year. The decrease was mainly due to smaller recoveries during the year under the head "Recovery of survey and settlement charges." The collections under "Other Receipts" showed a marked increase amounting to Rs. 4,00,000, consisting chiefly of realisations of *salami* in the settlement of khas mahal lands in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling.

Changes in the land revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates under direct management.

26. There was a net increase of 9,772 acres in the area of land settled and of Rs. 1,18,033 in revenue.

Redemption of land revenue.

27. The total number of petty estates and holdings, the land revenue of which was redeemed during the year, was 506 against 415 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 1,174 and the total price obtained was Rs. 35,213, the corresponding figures of the previous year being Rs. 730 and Rs. 21,909, respectively.

Remittance of land revenue and rent by money orders.

28. The number of special money orders issued during the year for remittance of land revenue and cesses and the amount covered by them decreased from Rs. 2,28,117 and Rs. 21,52,603 in the year 1919-20 to Rs. 2,16,639 and Rs. 20,18,270, respectively. The remittance exceeded a lakh of rupees in seven districts and Rs. 50,000 in nine others. The average value of each money order was Rs. 9·31.

Coercive measures—(a) Sale laws.

29. The number of defaults and of sales during the year was 12,466 and 1,097, respectively, against 13,098 and 1,234 in the preceding year. The price realised by sale was 6·6 times the Government revenue. One hundred and forty-six appeals were filed. In 23 cases sales were annulled by the Commissioners under section 2 of Bengal Act VII of 1868, and in 16 cases by the Board under section 26 of Act XI of 1859, as amended by the Decentralization Act, 1914.

(b) Certificate procedure.

30. The total number of certificates (exclusive of those for cesses) filed during the year was 57,418 as against 53,522 in the previous year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of, to the total number for disposal was 79·2 against 79·0 in the previous year, the number of cases pending at the close of the year being 15,333 as against 16,822 at the end of the preceding year. In the majority of cases payment was made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property, and actual sale was necessary in only 4,313 cases, or 7·3 per cent. of the total number of cases (58,630) disposed of during the year.

Realisation of Government and other demands by imprisonment.

31. Of the 58 persons committed to civil jails in the enforcement of certificates, 39 were imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands and the remainder for withholding sums due to District Boards, Co-operative Banks, etc. Four persons imprisoned in the previous year were released during the year under report.

Processes.

32. The total number of processes served during the year was 920,090 against 982,914 in the preceding year. The process-fees realized amounted to Rs. 3,45,565 against Rs. 3,82,261 in the preceding year, and the total cost of service, including the pay of supervising establishment debitable to land revenue, was Rs. 3,35,973 against Rs. 2,74,085. The cost of the process-serving establishment exceeded the receipts from fees in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Khulna, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna. The increase in cost was due to the revision of the pay of the process-servers and to the grant of *ad-interim* allowance to the supervising staff. The system of fines and rewards for bad and good work was generally reported to have worked well. The system of serving processes by dafadars through the President Panchayats was in force in the districts of Birbhum, Hooghly, Khulna, Dacca, Tippera, Rangpur and in parts of the districts of Burdwan, the 24-Parganas, Jessore, Murshidabad, Nadia and Faridpur. The system worked satisfactorily on the whole, except in the districts of Jessore and Khulna.

Other Revenue work.

Land registration.

33. The total number of proprietary interests entered in the land registration register was 984,479 at the beginning of the year as against

992,752 at its close. The number of applications for registration of succession to proprietary interest in land by purchase, inheritance, gift, or otherwise was 33,590, of which 31,239 were granted before the close of the year. The number of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 34,423 and 42,696, respectively. The number of undisposed of cases at the close of the year was 9,731, of which 621 were pending for more than six months. The expenditure on account of land registration work (excluding the pay of the permanent establishment) amounted to Rs. 5,300, and the fees and fines realized aggregated Rs. 6,597.

Partitions.

34. Fifty-seven cases were instituted during the year for partition of estates under Bengal Act V of 1897. Including 252 cases pending from the preceding year, the total number for disposal was 309, out of which 59 cases were disposed of against 70 in the previous year. Of the 250 cases left undisposed of at the close of the year, 141 have been pending for more than two years, mostly in the districts of Dacca (17), Mymensingh (24), Bakarganj (20), Tippera (29), and Rajshahi (8). Estates Partition Funds exist only in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh. The incidence of cost per acre of the area partitioned during the year in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh was 7 annas 10 pies in the former and 2 annas 7 pies in the latter; the low cost in Mymensingh is due to the vast area under partition.

Land acquisition.

35. During the year proceedings for the acquisition on behalf of Government, local bodies and companies, of land covering an area of 4,255·5 acres were confirmed at a total cost of Rs. 64,33,169 as against an area of 4,123 acres at a cost of Rs. 72,60,613 in the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred, a sum of Rs. 34,43,630 was paid for the acquisition of land required for Government, including State Railways and Companies' Railways provided with land free of cost under the terms of their agreements, and Rs. 29,89,539 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust, Calcutta Port Commissioners and Railways and other Companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed during the year was Rs. 1,512 as against Rs. 1,761 in the preceding year. The decrease in the average cost is chiefly due to the fact that proceedings for the acquisition of less valuable rural areas in the districts of Bankura, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Tippera, Rangpur, and Malda were confirmed during the year.

Loans (a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

36. The value of loans outstanding at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,57,216, and loans, amounting to Rs. 38,425, were advanced during the year under report. Of this amount, Rs. 30,000 was advanced to the tenants of the colonization area in Bakarganj. Of Rs. 1,95,641 the total outstanding principal, Rs. 59,880, was repayable during the year. But a sum of Rs. 64,426 only was collected, including Rs. 10,785 collected in advance, while Rs. 115 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 1,31,100, of which Rs. 6,124 was overdue. Of Rs. 12,606 due on account of interest, current and arrear, the collection during the year amounted to Rs. 11,617, while Rs. 15 was remitted, and a balance of Rs. 979 was left unrealized at the close of the year.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

37. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 1,14,433. The largest sums were issued in the districts of Tippera (Rs. 24,840), Faridpur (Rs. 24,745), Midnapore (Rs. 24,340) and Bakarganj (Rs. 20,000). In Tippera the loan was distributed in the Sadar and Chandpur subdivisions on account of the distress which prevailed there, and in Midnapore it was given to relieve the distress caused by the floods in July and August 1920. The loans in Faridpur and Bakarganj were given to relieve distress. The outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 25,98,381, making the aggregate amount outstanding Rs. 27,12,814, of which Rs. 16,52,504 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 11,24,693, including Rs. 4,973 paid in advance and Re. 1 paid in excess. Rupees 530 was remitted. The balance still recoverable is Rs. 15.87,617 (including Rs. 15,821 under suspension), of which Rs. 5,16,434 was overdue. The amounts overdue in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, Tippera, Bankura and Khulna are heavy. Of Rs. 1,92,096 due on account of interest, current and arrear, Rs. 1,35,927 was collected.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1920.]

Outturn of the year.

38. During the year traverse survey was continued in the districts of Bankura, Jessore and Nadia, and was begun in the district of Pabna as well as in the Terai Government Estate in the district of Darjeeling. The whole of the main programme of the Survey Department during the year, viz., the traverse survey of an area of 3,148 square miles, with the exception of an area of 67 square miles, was completed. The areas actually traversed were 655 square miles in the district of Jessore, 701 square miles in Bankura. 769 square miles in Nadia, 695 square miles in Pabna and 234 square miles in the Terai Government Estate in Darjeeling.

A total number of 668,760 copies of maps was prepared during the year. Satisfactory progress was made in the production of 4″ jurisdiction maps in the districts of Bankura, Burdwan, Nadia, Jessore and in the diara areas in the Rajshahi district. The survey of the town of Howrah, which had been in progress since 1913-14, was finished. A re-survey and settlement of the Kalimpong Government Estate was undertaken and completed during the year, and a considerable portion of the West Teesta Government Estate was also traversed.

The Bengal Land Surveying School was transferred during the year to the control of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending 30th September 1920.]

General.

39. Cadastral survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights under the supervision of the Director of Land Records were in progress in 15 districts. Altogether 2,587 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and records for 2,016 square miles were finally published. Records-of-rights have been completed in respect of 33,906 square miles, out of 65,960 square miles in this Presidency to which the Bengal Tenancy Act applies.

Major Settlements.

40. Major settlement operations were in progress in 8 districts, viz., Midnapore, Mymensingh, Jessore, Bankura, Nadia, Rajshahi, Tippera and Noakhali.

Midnapore.

41. In Midnapore recovery work was finished and all the records were made over to the Collector. Some entries relating to cases under sections 105 and 106 and all appellate decisions remain to be noted. The final result of case-work has been an increase in the rent of raiyats by 14 per cent. and that of tenure-holders by 21 per cent. The total expenditure exceeded the estimate by about half a lakh. The average receipts per square mile have, however, been in excess of what was estimated and the deduction of the surplus amount thus realised will bring the net expenditure well within the estimate.

Mymensingh.

42. In the district of Mymensingh the resumption cases in the river Jamuna, which had been in abeyance since 1914, were taken up as well as some pending cases under sections 105 and 106. In other diara cases, the work of the Resumption Officer was almost finished, but objections concerning 46,249 acres remain to be heard. Except for these cases, the settlement operation was complete and all the records were handed over to the Collector.

Rajshahi.

43. But for case-work and heavy programmes of re-settlement of land revenue and of diara resumptions, the settlement operation in the district of Rajshahi would have been closed earlier. During the year 24,906 tenancies were dealt with and the work of revision of land revenue and of resumption in diara areas was brought to a completion. The result of the present settlement has been an increase of revenue of 73 per cent. The total expenditure

exceeded the sanctioned estimate, but the excess in the average receipts per square mile over the estimate will make up the deficiency in recoveries.

Tippera and Noakhali.

44. The only work pending in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali at the close of last year was case-work, recovery and small scale mapping. This was practically completed during the year under review. The total expenditure in connection with the operation was less than the original estimate and there was a saving of about Rs. 25,000 or 1·08 per cent.

Bankura.

45. In the district of Bankura an area of 773 square miles was cadastrally surveyed, records for 806 square miles were attested and those for 536 square miles were finally published. The amount spent during the year was about 4¾ lakhs, the total expenditure up to the close of the year being well within the estimate of cost. The main items of work pending in the district are recovery and case-work. The resumption and settlement of Ghatwali lands presented some difficulty as the Zamindars and Ghatwals failed to agree about terms. The forms of *patta* and *kabuliat* to be used for the purpose have since been approved by Government.

Jessore

46. In the district of Jessore the programme of cadastral survey and bujharat during the year extended to 791 square miles, and that of attestations to 629 square miles. The whole of it was completed, and some progress was also made with *jamabandi* and diara proceedings. About 11 lakhs of plots involving over 4½ lakhs of interests were dealt with and the records for an area of 500 square miles were finally published during the period under report. Expenditure during the year amounted to about Rs. 5⅔ lakhs.

Nadia.

47. In the district of Nadia the problems of the wide spread *utbandi* tenancies not only made attestation difficult and tedious, but also complicated the completion of statistics and delayed the final scrutiny of the records. The rules which were framed when *utbandi* tenancies came under discussion in connection with the Rajshahi settlement have been maintained. In about a quarter of the whole area representing *utbandi* tenancies, the raiyats were recorded as having occupancy rights. During the year, the boundary between the districts of Burdwan and Nadia, which had long been in obscurity, was demarcated and new jurisdiction lists and maps prepared.

Work was kept up to the programme, all stages up to bujharat being completed in 915 square miles; records for 911 square miles were attested. A sum of about Rs. 4⅔ lakhs was expended during the year.

Minor Operations.

48. During the year minor operations were in progress in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Malda and in the Kalimpong Government Estates in the district of Darjeeling. Altogether 110·5 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and final records of 8·08 square miles were published. The work in connection with the maintenance of records was continued during the year only in the Fatehsingh Estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad. The working of the scheme in the ten-annas share of the Mathurapur Estate in the district of Malda, introduced only in the preceding year, had to be stopped owing to the transfer of interests of proprietors, the transferees having been left to apply for the continuance of the scheme.

Boundary marks.

49. Satisfactory progress was made during the year in the work of maintenance of boundary marks in the districts of Midnapore and Faridpur. In Mymensingh progress was retarded owing to the paucity of experienced officers, and in Rajshahi the work has now commenced. The sanctioned rate of cost (Rs. 3-12) of maintenance of boundary marks per square mile was found inadequate and an increased rate (Rs. 5-12) was sanctioned during the year. Revised rules were framed under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act prescribing the duties of chaukidars, dafadars and panchayats with regard to the preservation of these marks.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1920-21.]

Waste Lands.

50. Special rules regarding waste lands exist for Chittagong, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and the Sunderbans. In Jalpaiguri a total area of 391 acres

was leased in the year with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 453, bringing the total area leased to 102,167 acres with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 68,708. In Bakarganj, settlement of the southern portions of Char Anandaprasad and Char Fassan was made during the year. A number of *bhadralok* colonists was admitted in Char Fassan.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1920-21.]

Number and management.

51. The total number of estates under direct management, including those of private individuals managed by Government, was 2,441 with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 43,10,382 (excluding that of Orphangunge Market, Hastings Estate and Madhab Babu's Bazar in the 24-Parganas) the percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 9·31. In pursuance of the scheme for instituting the reorganization of the Khas Mahal Department of Contai in Midnapore in a small area, in the first instance, a small area was selected in Bhabani Chak, a sub-circle in the Contai circle, for experiment. The scheme for the reorganization of the tahsil establishment in the remaining khas mahals in the district had to be kept in abeyance, as the papers on the subject were destroyed by the fire which broke out in the Finance Department on the 9th January 1921. The tahsil circles of the Diamond Harbour Subdivision in the 24-Parganas were reconstituted and the number reduced from seven to six. The scheme for the reorganization of the Khas Mahal Department of Faridpur was sanctioned after the close of the year, effect being given to it from 1st April 1921. In Tippera the reorganization scheme, although sanctioned in October 1920, could not be fully introduced during the year, as a change in the tahsil staff in the middle of the collecting season would have dislocated the collection work. In the district of Darjeeling, the Kalimpong Khas Mahal was put in the immediate charge of the Subdivisional Officer, Kalimpong, and the post of the manager was abolished. The scheme for the maintenance of the Khas Mahal copies of settlement records for the Western Duars in the district of Jalpaiguri initiated experimentally in Mainaguri tahsil in 1918-19 proved a failure and was abandoned.

Grant for improvements.

52. Out of the total amount of Rs. 1,60,220 expended on improvements, Rs. 27,403 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 61,871 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 14,784 on roads and bridges and the remainder (Rs. 56,162) on miscellaneous items of improvements, including tree-planting.

Colonisation in the Bakarganj Sunderbans.

53. The year under report was the fourteenth year of the colonization scheme. The original colonization area consisted of 20 estates, resumed under the forest grant rules, of which 173½ square miles were available for colonization. Of these, four entire estates and portions of two are "Protected forests." Again, the assessment in five of these estates having been completed, they were excluded from the colonization programme. No new colonists were admitted during the year, though the number of such admissions in the preceding year was 278. This was due to a change in the policy with regard to these settlements. It was thought that it would be more profitable to Government to reclaim the land under Government supervision and settle it subsequently with the colonists without a rent-free period than to follow the practice hitherto in vogue, by which colonists were admitted in jungle areas and allowed a rent-free period of 3 years to reclaim their land. It is reported that the new system resulted in an increase of the forest revenue during the year. An area of 5,100 acres of land was surveyed during the cold weather of the year under report in Chhota Bogi, Latachapli and Bara Baliatali estates. About 5,500 acres of land were reclaimed during the year against 3,620 acres in 1919-20. Progress in colonization, reclamation and assessment was considerable. A sum of Rs. 30,000 was advanced to the colonists as Land Improvement loans. A sum of Rs. 22,124 on account of agricultural loans were realized during the

year. The total expenditure incurred during 1920-21 on the colonization scheme amounted to Rs. 80,622. There were 52 co-operative credit societies in the colonized area against 42 in the preceding year.

Roads.

54. An aggregate sum of Rs. 2,97,302 was spent on roads and communications in Government estates against a Government grant of Rs. 72,254 representing 1½ per cent. on the collections from Government estates. The excess expenditure was met from District Board and other local funds.

Education.

55. There were altogether 2,566 schools in Government estates and 79,543 pupils attending them during 1920-21 against the corresponding figures of 2,466 and 75,387, respectively in the preceding year. The greatest increase was in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Chittagong and Noakhali, and decreases were notably recorded in the districts of Midnapore and Pabna. The total expenditure on education in Government estates amounted to Rs. 1,01,553 against one per cent. grant of Rs. 53,012 assigned for the purpose, the excess being met from local funds.

Sale of estates.

56. During the year under report one plot of Government land in the 24-Parganas was transferred to the Corporation of Calcutta on payment of Rs. 6,469, and a portion of a Government estate bearing tauzi No. 1950, in Noakhali formed out of the relinquished lands of the Assam-Bengal Railway was sold free of revenue for Rs. 182.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1920-21.]

Number of estates and payment of Government demand.

57. There were altogether 68 estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year, including three small estates owned by some members of the Nawab family of Dacca. Three new estates were taken charge of and seven estates released. Thus the total number of estates under the charge of the Court stood at 64 at the close of the year.

A sum of Rs. 11,43,187 or 97·8 per cent. on the total demand was paid during the year on account of revenue and cesses due to Government, against 99 per cent. in the previous year.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

58. Rupees 5,06,496 were paid on account of rent and cesses due to superior landlords, and Rs. 1,32,619 remained outstanding at the close of the year. The repayment amounted to 79·2 per cent. on the total demand against 82·9 per cent. in the previous year. The heaviest balances were due from the Nawab family and Bhawal estates in the district of Dacca, the Karatiya estate in Mymensingh, the Dasmina estate in Bakarganj, the Gupta estate in Chittagong, the Paschimgaon and Bardhan estates in the district of Tippera, and the estates of Babu Bharat Chandra Saha in the district of Noakhali. The balances were mostly due to the non-adjustment of accounts with co-sharer landlords, the non-appearance of claimants, the refusal of co-sharers of *ejmali* tenures to join in payment and, in some cases, to shortness of funds.

Collection of rent and cesses.

59. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court during the year amounted to Rs. 1,11,99,452 including an arrear demand of Rs. 69,03,426. Out of this Rs. 43,50,124 or 38·8 per cent. was collected against 40·2 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collection on current demand declined from 105·9 to 101·2. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was reached or exceeded in only 35 out of 64 estates. The fall in the price of jute and a rise in the prices of the necessaries of life are assigned as reasons for the poorer collections.

Balance of rent and cesses due to estates.

60. A sum of Rs. 64,57,669 representing 150·3 per cent. on the current demand and 57·6 on the total demand against the corresponding percentage of 153·1 and 58·2 in the preceding year remained as outstanding balance due to all the estates at the close of the year. In the Burdwan Division the outstanding balance of Basudebpur estate is still very heavy although a

large portion of the time-barred arrears was remitted. In the Presidency Division, the increase of balances in Jaunbazar estate No. II is mainly due to the accumulation of the rent of a house which forms the subject matter of a pending suit. More than half the balance of the Syedpur estate was due from the *patnidars* and this has been realised since the close of the year. In the Dacca Division an appreciable reduction in the balances of the Bhawal estate and in the Nawab family estates was effected by the remission of irrecoverable arrears of rent and cesses amounting to Rs. 1,12,050 in the former and Rs. 1,19,684 in the latter case. Time-barred arrears of those estates amount to over eleven lakhs of rupees, but the amount of recoverable arrears in the Bhawal estate is also very large. In the Chittagong Division the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar estate shows a considerable recoverable balance, and there is room for improvement in collection in the Paschimgaon and Bardhan estates. In the Rajshahi Division the balance in the Jaunbazar estate is heavy, but about a lakh of rupees does not appear to be actually due. Steps are being taken to correct the papers and to have the amount written off.

Debts of estates.

61. The total debts of all estates in the Presidency during the year under report stood at Rs. 34,51,337 against Rs. 37,13,697 in the previous year. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced during the year amounted to Rs. 4,05,738 and a sum of Rs. 2,32,309 was paid as interest. In the Burdwan Division the debts of the Pachetgarh estate were repaid in full and the estate released. The repayment of the debt of the Jhargram estate is being regularly made. A scheme for the liquidation of the debt of the Basudebpur estate was sanctioned during the year, under which the debt is to be cleared off in eight years. In the Presidency Division a scheme has been proposed for the payment of a sum of Rs. 1,04,420 which is due by the ward Babu Panchanan Sarkar of the Jaunbazar estate to other wards of the estate. In the Dacca Division the debts of the Karatiya estate could not be reduced to the figure according to the sanctioned scheme during the year, but they are expected to be paid off within the present year as provided in that scheme. In the Chittagong Division the schemes could not be followed in respect of the estates of Salamtali Khan, Surendra Bejoy Ray, Kazi and Paschimgaon estates. The cause is attributed in some cases to extraordinary expenditure having been incurred and in other cases to short collections. In the Rajshahi Division the repayment of the debt of the Tantibund estate was greatly retarded owing to heavy expenditure incurred in connection with settlement operations.

Cost of management.

62. The percentage of cost of management on the current rent and cess demand of estates for the whole Presidency during the year under report was 13·7, being almost the same as in the preceding year, though there were variations in the case of individual estates. The management cost of the Karatiya estate in the district of Mymensingh continues to be high on account of the scattered nature of the estate. That of the Gayhatta estate in the district is still more expensive, but steps are being taken to bring it down to a reasonable limit.

Improvements.

63. The standard fixed for expenditure on education is one per cent. and that for expenditure on agricultural and sanitary improvements three per cent. on the current rent and cess demand of an estate. This was exceeded by about one per cent.; and the total sum spent during the year on all these heads by the estates in the whole Presidency amounted to Rs. 2,19,352 against Rs. 2,15,042 in the preceding year.

Lady Adviser.

64. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards, manifested an untiring zeal and a keen interest in the wards entrusted to her care.

Education of wards.

65. The progress made in the education of wards, which is one of the special cares of the Court of Wards, was generally good. Two of the wards who were previously sent to England are continuing their studies there, and one has been sent to the Agricultural Institute at Allahabad. Two are studying for the Law Examination while another is being trained in zamindari work, so as to make him fit for, and useful in, his future position in life as a resident proprietor.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1920-21.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

66. The Bengal Tenancy Act is in force throughout the Presidency, except in the district of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

67. Relations between landlords and tenants were generally marked by an absence of cordiality, and were actually strained in many places, the most common causes being the levy of *abwabs*, enhancement of rent and disagreement as to standard of measurement.

Rent receipts.

68. In 53 cases proceedings were taken for failure to grant rent receipts. Of these, 18 ended in conviction, 30 were either struck off, rejected or dismissed and in one case the accused was acquitted. Only four cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Illegal cesses.

69. The levy of *abwabs* continues as before under different denominations, and the tenants ordinarily pay without demur, in order to keep up amicable relations with their landlords. No suits were instituted during the year under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and it is clear that these illegal exactions have almost become customary now. It is, however, reported by the Collector of Bakarganj that in the last "Raiyats' conference" held at Barisal a demand was made for stopping the exaction of these *abwabs*. The Collector of Nadia reports that the Settlement Officer of Nadia-Murshidabad has noted that, with the honourable exception of the Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia, all the bigger landlords realize extensive *abwabs*. The Settlement Officer appears to have noticed that the prevalence of *abwabs* coincides with the prevalence of *utbandi*, the insecure tenure of which lends itself more easily to these exactions being imposed with success. It is likely as remarked by the Collector that the settlement operations have helped the tenants to realise that *abwabs* are illegal, and that the payment of these cannot be enforced through the Courts.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

Constitution prior to 3rd January, 1921.

70. The local legislative authority in Bengal is the Bengal Legislative Council. Of the constitution of that Council prior to the 3rd January, 1921, an account was given in the Bengal Adminstration Report, 1909-10, pages 15 to 19, *ibid*, 1911-12, pages 148 to 154, *ibid*, 1912-13, pages 13 and 14, and *ibid*, 1915-16, page 12.

Government of India Act, 1919.

71. On the 3rd January, 1921, the Government of India Act, 1919 (9 & 10 Geo. 5., c. 101) came into force in Bengal. The new Council inaugurated by that Act met for the first time on the 28th January, 1921. The constitutional changes in government for Bengal and India generally, introduced by the Act of 1919, are fully set forth in published reports on the subject, and it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed during the year 1920-21.

72. Six Acts were passed by the old Bengal Legislative Council and one Act by the new Council during the year 1920-21, all of which became law during the year. These Acts were—

(*1*) *Bengal Act III of 1920.*—[The Calcutta Rent Act, 1920]. This law was enacted to restrict temporarily for three years the increase of rents in Calcutta, which were reaching exorbitant figures owing to the fact that the expansion of Calcutta had not kept pace with the needs of its population, and that building operations were reduced to a minimum during the war. The Act followed similar legislation which had been undertaken in Rangoon.

(*2*) *Bengal Act IV of 1920.*—[The Calcutta Pilots (Amendment) Act, 1920]. This law gave effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Public Services in India relating to the Bengal Pilot Service. Section 17 of the Calcutta Pilots Act, 1859 (XII of 1859), was so amended as to do away with the system of punishing pilots by means of the reduction of their earnings.

(*3*) *Bengal Act V of 1920.*—[The Bengal Alluvial Lands Act, 1920]. This Act is designed to prevent riots and agrarian disputes, which were of frequent occurrence, for the possession of what are known as *char* lands, *i.e.*, lands gained by alluvion, or by the dereliction of a river or the sea, in the deltaic tracts of Bengal.

(*4*) *Bengal Act V of 1920.*—[The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920]. This was the most important Act passed during the year under review. It consolidates and amends the law relating to the construction of drainage and other works for the improvement of the agricultural and sanitary conditions of certain areas in Bengal. The legal mechanism for the execution of drainage projects for sanitary as well as agricultural purposes, both large and small, were contained in various Acts, notably the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, the Bengal Embankment Act, 1882, the Bengal Drainage Act, 1880, and the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895. These Acts were found neither to be sufficiently suitable or effective, nor simple enough in the case of small schemes. Moreover, even for large schemes it was found that the procedure was unnecessarily rigid, cumbrous and dilatory. Neither of these two Acts, for instance, contained provisions for the execution of works initiated by private individuals, or bodies of agriculturists registered under

the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (II of 1912). The main fault of the existing law was its lack of elasticity, and legislation was accordingly undertaken with a view to provide by legislation only the essentials of procedure, details being relegated to statutory rules which could be altered in accordance with changes in conditions or experience. The Act is designed to cover both large and small schemes which are initiated or can be executed by any person or body of persons, such as a Co-operative Society or local authority. For small schemes a simple procedure has been evolved, whilst a more elaborate procedure has been prescribed for large projects.

(*5*) *Bengal Act VII of 1920.*—[The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1920]. This law amends the Calcutta Port Act, 1890 (Bengal Act III of 1890). It provides for the appointment of a full-time salaried chairman and deputy chairman in the place of the honorary chairman and salaried vice-chairman. This step brings the system of administration of the Port of Calcutta more into line with the system of administration prevailing in other ports of India.

(*6*) *Bengal Act VIII of 1920.*—[The Indian Red Cross Society (Bengal Branch) Act, 1920]. This was the last Act passed by the old Bengal Legislative Council as constituted before the Reforms. It provides for the administration of various moneys, properties and gifts received in Bengal from the public during the late war, for the purpose of medical and other aid to the sick and wounded, and for comforts to troops and other purposes, which up to the time of the passing of the Act were held in trust for "The Lady Carmichael's Bengal Women's War Fund and the 'Our Day' Fund (Bengal Branch)."

(*7*) *Bengal Act I of 1921.*—[The Deputy President's Emoluments Act, 1921]. This is the first law enacted by the new Bengal Legislative Council under the Reforms Scheme. It provides for the payment of a salary to the Deputy President of the Bengal Legislative Council, as required by the provisions of section 72C (*5*) of the Government of India Act.

73. No bills were pending before the Bengal Legislative Council on the 31st March, 1921. **Bills pending.**

Bengal Police.

[The Report on Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1920.]

74. The Military Police Battalion now known as the Eastern Frontier Rifles (Bengal Battalion), though without its full complement of military officers was maintained in a state of efficiency and good discipline. The Indian officers and men who served in the Indian Expeditionary Force returned during the year, and the Battalion was to be congratulated on the fine record of courage and endurance given to them by the Commanding Officer under whom they served. **Military Police.**

75. The sanctioned strength of the subordinate police rose from 23,051 to 23,852. The increase was due chiefly to the creation of additional appointments of sub-inspectors required to replace probationers under practical training in districts, and of constables for strengthening the reserve for leave and sickness. **Administration.**

The most important feature of the year's administration was the question of improving the conditions of service, especially in the subordinate ranks, among some of whom dissatisfaction was bringing in its train a certain deterioration of morale. It was recognised that some improvement in pay and prospects was imperatively necessary, while financial conditions rendered an adequate solution of the problem one of considerable difficulty. After very careful consideration new terms, entailing very heavy expenditure, were finally sanctioned for the subordinate ranks, involving a substantial increase of pay and grant of other concessions, and constituting what were considered to be fair and reasonable prospects. The pay of inspectors was revised after the year ended.

Recruitment.

76. The enlistment of constables was not satisfactory during the greater part of the year, but recruits presented themselves in large numbers after the revised rates of pay were announced. Bengali recruits formed 65·1 per cent. of the total number, the highest proportion so far recorded.

Health.

77. The health of the force showed no improvement, malarial fever and influenza causing much illness; in some districts the daily average number of absentees owing to sickness was very high. Better results may be looked for now that the increase in the leave reserve will give some relief from the strain of continuous duty, and the higher rates of pay will enable the lower ranks to provide themselves with more and better food. But there remain other factors adversely affecting the health of the force, *e.g.*, the inadequate supply of cots and mosquito-nets and the defective buildings in which many officers and men are housed, the improvement of which is a slow process, retarded by financial considerations.

Discipline.

78. A very satisfactory feature of the year's work was the increase in the number of officers and men who did specially good work for which they received rewards. On the other hand, discontent with the conditions of service unfortunately resulted in some instances in a decline from the necessary standard of discipline, and a consequent increase in the number of departmental punishments inflicted. The number of complaints instituted by private persons against the police decreased, the number of officers and men who were found guilty of offences on such complaints being 128 out of a total force of more than 23,000. Of 49 civil suits instituted against the police, 24 were dismissed, one was decreed, and the others were pending at the close of the year.

Village Police.

79. Varying reports were received from districts on the work of the rural police, and the complaints of the inadequacy of the chaukidars' pay were general and well founded. In many districts the resignations on this account were numerous, while difficulty was found in filling vacancies. Instances of specially good work were brought to notice, and the percentage of chaukidars rewarded rose from 16·3 to 19·5. The number punished, however, also increased, though in several districts the punishments awarded were unduly severe.

Expenditure.

80. The expenditure of the department increased from Rs. 1,15,00,000 to Rs. 1,31,00,000 in round figures. The increase was mainly due to the enhanced rates of pay, to the grant of *ad interim* allowances to ministerial officers, and for travelling and conveyance allowances. The expenditure on the Criminal Investigation Department was considerably reduced. Progress in building construction was slower, the amount spent on buildings having fallen from Rs. 22 lakhs in the previous year to Rs. 17 lakhs. The adequate housing of the force has been for many years one of the urgent needs of the department, but the increased cost of building materials has stood in the way of any substantial progress in recent years. In the present financial situation, funds are not likely to be available in sufficient measure towards provision for improved buildings.

Crime.

81. The total volume of serious crime was less than in the previous year, the decrease being most marked in offences against property, viz., dacoity, robbery, etc., and attributable in a large measure to the preventive measures taken. Good work was done by the Criminal Investigation Department in dealing with organized and professional crime, and valuable assistance was given by it to the district police in combating outbreaks of dacoity. The co-operation of the public with the police in the prevention and detection of crime manifested itself in certain areas, specially in Hooghly, where defence parties achieved considerable success. The system of station patrol boats for the prevention of crime in riverine areas has had good results, and was made permanent during the year. The problem of dealing with the habitual criminal was under consideration. The province was free from revolutionary outrages. All *détenus* under the Defence of India Rule and state prisoners who were under restraint at the end of 1919 were released during the year; seven convicts in so-called political cases, whose conduct was satisfactory, were also released before the expiry of their sentences.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during 1920. Statistics of British, India Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

82. The total number of persons killed by wild animals increased from 293 in 1919 to 418 in 1920. There was an increase in the number of deaths caused by elephants, tigers, bears and other animals, the number being 35, 102, 12 and 215 against 16, 28, 8 and 160, respectively in 1919.

The number of deaths caused by leopards shows a decrease, the number being 45 against 81 in the preceding year.

Snakes.

83. The number of persons who died from snake-bite increased from 3,689 in 1919 to 4,040 in 1920, the increase being in the Burdwan, Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions where the figures increased from 948, 1,144, 466 and 1,004 in 1919 to 1,077, 1,202, 596 and 1,037, respectively, in 1920.

Destruction of wild animals.

84. There was an increase in the number of wild animals for the destruction of which rewards were paid, the number being 556 in 1920 against 393 in 1919. The amount paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes was Rs. 13,322 and Rs. 160, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1919 being Rs. 10,388 and Rs. 441.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The annual report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1920.]

Administrative improvements.

85. One of the outstanding features of the year's administration was the growing dissatisfaction of the subordinate staff with their pay and prospects. A small increase of pay had been granted to constables in 1918, but the cost of living continued to increase, and wages offered by private employers rose correspondingly, with the result that the standard of pay in the Calcutta police again fell below the point at which there is a reasonable equilibrium between the demand for, and the supply of, recruits. Resignations and desertions, and the failure of recruiting measures, showed that an amelioration of the economic conditions of the subordinate ranks was an imperative and immediate necessity. The pay of constables, head-constables and sergeants was accordingly raised further in October 1920. Subsequently further increases were sanctioned for constables and head-constables, together with the grant of railway warrants to men proceeding on leave. This has improved recruitment and resignations are fewer.

Measures to deal with hooligans or "goondas".

86. The increase in the number of cases of robbery and the connected problem of dealing with the *goonda* or hooligan element was another problem of importance. Representative opinion was consulted on the proposal to confer power on the executive to remove from the city desperate and dangerous characters of this class, the majority of whom are foreigners to Bengal. but the suggested remedy was not viewed with entire favour. Meanwhile a special police staff was appointed to investigate the problem more thoroughly and to co-ordinate measures for dealing with it so far as existing difficulties would allow. The considerable increase in the number of bad livelihood cases was due to the more vigorous action directed against *goondas*. The rise in the number of prosecutions for gambling and cruelty to animals was also noticeable, as also the absence of serious rioting, although the industrial unrest led to a very marked increase in the number of strikes.

Public Vehicles Department.

87. The work of the Public Vehicles Department, comprising motor vehicles and hackney carriage branches, which was established during the year, continued to grow in magnitude and complexity. The number of motor vehicles registered was 3,701, as compared with 1,745 in 1919, and 741 in 1918, while to enforce compliance with the traffic and motor vehicles rules, 12,176 cases were reported as against 2,891 in 1919. Even so, the number of

persons killed or injured in the streets by motor vehicles in 1920 was nearly double the number in 1919. The ministerial staff of the department was strengthened during the year and an increase in the executive staff was under consideration. The revision of the rules, particularly with reference to taxi-cabs, and the increased supervision and control rendered possible with the larger staff will, it is hoped, succeed in raising the standard of the motor car service and in rendering the streets more safe.

Buildings.

88. For financial reasons, little was done during the year towards solving the problem of accommodation for the police in Calcutta. The new hospital is approaching completion, but it was not found possible to construct the very necessary buildings required for police stations and staff. The yearly rent paid to private owners rose from Rs. 91,468 to Rs. 4,01,958, and the total must continue to increase as leases fall in and are renewed at higher rates owing to the rise in the value of house property. The Commissioner's proposals for a house-building scheme to be financed from a loan were examined by Government, and further details are awaited.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1920.]

Judicial staff.

89. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 10 additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Three Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge were employed in Burdwan, Murshidabad and Faridpur; they decided seven cases. Seven temporary additional Sessions Judges were employed in the province, namely, at Howrah, Midnapur and Rajshahi throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; at Noakhali from the 1st January to the 2nd February, again from the 15th April to the 9th October and again from the 15th December till the end of the year; at Pabna-Bogra from the 18th January till the 16th October and again from the 17th November till the end of the year; at Bakarganj from the 14th February till the 9th October; and at Dinajpur from the 6th December till the end of the year. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 361 stipendiary and 754 honorary magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 6 and 63 respectively on the numbers of the previous year. One special magistrate was employed in Noakhali and another in Pabna. The former decided 118 cases and the latter one case only. Of the 361 stipendiary magistrates, 246 exercised first, 85 second, and 30 third class powers.

There were 126 benches of magistrates constituted from among 670 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of the total, 99 were independent and 27 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

90. There were 349,365 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 9,202 on the figures of 1919. Of the total, 188,035 were under the Indian Penal Code and 161,330 under special and local laws. These totals are less by 5,431 and 3,771 respectively than those of 1919. The decrease was most marked in Dacca, Mymensingh, Dinajpur, Pabna, Faridpur, Bogra and Rajshahi as regards offences under the Penal Code; and in Howrah, the Presidency town and Hooghly as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases

91. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 60,187 or 17·2 per cent. of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending enquiry at the close of 1919. The percentage for the preceding year was 17·4. Complaints were dismissed in 54,962 cases or 2,680 less than in 1919. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 5,225 or 363 more than in 1919.

True cases.

92. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 289,193 were found to be true, and of these, 228,638 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending in 18,705 cases at the close of the year. Compared with 1919, the number of cases found to be true shows a decrease of 4,205 and the number brought to trial an increase of 885.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

93. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 99,905 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 128,733 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal. **Total cases for trial.**

94. The number of cases brought before the Presidency magistrates including the municipal magistrates, was greater by 2,803 than in 1919. The number of cases under special and local laws rose from 88,496 to 90,028 and that under the Penal Code from 8,606 to 9,877. The increase under the former head was most marked in offences under the Bengal Motor Car and Cycle Act, which rose from 2,330 to 5,755. The number of offences under the Hackney and Stage Carriages Acts rose from 902 to 1,977 and under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from 10,596 to 11,474. On the other hand, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of offences under the Police Act, which fell from 52,257 to 47,776. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc., which rose from 3,688 to 4,583. **A.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.**

Before the Presidency magistrates other than the municipal magistrates, 82,301 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 7,925 were before stipendiary magistrates, 71,064 before honorary magistrates sitting singly, and 3,312 before benches. The corresponding figures for 1919 were 79,654, 19,628, 56,558 and 3,468, respectively. Five hundred and eighty cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 62 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by magistrates, 17 under the ordinary, and the remainder under the summary, procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the police magistrates was 21,724 as compared with 22,329 in 1919. The number of those who attended and were discharged without examination was 86 or ·3 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. Of the total number in attendance, 17,799 (81·6) were discharged on the first, 3,811 (17·5 per cent.) on the second, 177 (·8) on the third, and 23 (·1) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2 more than in 1919. The number of cases brought before the municipal magistrates was 17,460 and one case was pending from the previous year. The number of cases disposed of was 17,416, of which 14,551 were decided under the summary procedure. The remaining 45 cases were pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1919, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows an increase of 94 and 49, respectively. The number of witnesses examined before the municipal magistrates rose from 5,625 to 5,877. Of those in attendance, three were detained for more than three days.

95. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, was 89,197. Of the persons tried, 6,498 were acquitted or discharged, 81,790 were convicted, eight died, 84 were committed to the sessions and 817 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 1,665 were compounded, withdrawn, or dismissed for default. Of the persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 7,123 were convicted and 3,684 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of magistrates during the year are shown below:— **Results of trials.**

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Stipendiary magistrates	2,616	9,309	78
Benches of ,, ...	138	3,204	95·9
Honorary magistrates sitting singly ...	3,744	60,277	94·9

Of the persons convicted, 2,301 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, including eight persons who were sentenced to solitary confinement; 761 were punished with simple imprisonment, 74,304 with fine, and 125 with whipping. Of the persons sentenced to fine, 140 were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Sentences of imprisonment passed in the cases of 44 youthful offenders were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Three thousand five hundred and eighty-six convicted persons were warned and discharged. In addition to these sentences, 456 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 432 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 5 persons, convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 227 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the cases of 170 persons. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct shows an increase of 61, as compared with 1919.

Before the municipal magistrates, 19,995 persons were under trial, of whom 18,997 were convicted, 932 were acquitted or discharged, 6 died and 60 remained under trial at the close of the year. The percentage of convictions was 95·3. Of the persons convicted, 12,718 were punished with fines, and the remainder were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and by-laws of the Calcutta Corporation.

B.—Magistrates outside Calcutta. Cases for trial.

96. At the opening of the year, 7,037 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year 128,744 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, 128,765 were disposed of and 6,962 remained pending at its close. In the remaining 54 cases, the accused died, escaped or were transferred. The number of cases brought to trial was 1,933 less than in 1919, the decrease being chiefly in cases under special and local laws (2,237) On the other hand, there was an increase in offences affecting the human body (352). A decrease in the number of cases instituted is reported from sixteen and an increase from ten districts. The largest decrease was in Chittagong (843) and the largest increase in the 24-Parganas (1,211). The decrease in Chittagong occurred both in cases under the Penal Code, and in cases under special and local laws; the decrease under the former head was chiefly in offences affecting the human body and in offences against property. The increase in the 24-Parganas was chiefly in cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The disposals were distributed as follows :—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily
District Magistrates	125	49
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates	76,355	24,087
Honorary magistrates	18,179	617
Benches of magistrates	3,416	5,806
Special magistrates	119	...

In addition to the cases shown above, district and subdivisional magistrates decided 12 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was 770 less than in 1919. The decrease occurred in the courts of subordinate stipendiary magistrates, special magistrates and benches of magistrates who disposed of 918, 59 and 19 cases, respectively, less than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by honorary magistrates and District Magistrates shows an increase of 198 and 28, respectively, as compared with 1919.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 186, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Midnapur (71).

Results of trials.

97. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,321 were committed or referred to the sessions and 127,444 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 178,667 persons were accused or 3,269 less than in 1919. Of the total, 86,192 or 48·2 per cent. were convicted and 92,475 or 51·8 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. In 1919, 49·7 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 47,807 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 65·8 per cent. against 67 in 1919.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 31,710 or 29·6 per cent. were convicted, and 75,542 or 70·4 per cent. acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases of 42,562 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 49 against 50 in 1919.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before the magistrates at the close of 1920 was 12,336 as compared with 12,208 in 1919. Of these, 13, who were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of delays in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 929 against 987 in 1919.

The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows:—

Class of Magistrates.	Number of persons		Percentage of convictions.
	Acquitted or discharged	Convicted.	
Benches of magistrates	3,907	6,835	63·6
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ...	76,999	66,665	46·4
Honorary magistrates	11,297	12,541	52·6
Special magistrates	146	42	22·3
District magistrates	126	109	46·3

Of the persons shown above as convicted, the numbers tried summarily were 5,369 by benches of magistrates; 24,413 by subordinate stipendiary magistrates; 466 by honorary magistrates; and 48 by District Magistrates.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

Nature of trial.	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	39,912	15,984
On summary trial	2,369	27,927

Punishments.

98. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous		15,983
	Simple		1,139
Fine ...	With imprisonment		2,306
	Without imprisonment		62,076
Whipping ...	Sole punishment		407
	Additional punishment		1

A term of solitary confinement was included in 30 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment and in the cases of 28 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. Three thousand six hundred and fifty-one persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 3,481 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Six hundred and fourteen persons, against 654 in 1919, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against 23 persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken and 22 were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,945 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 822 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 3,889 were for terms not exceeding fifteen days; 10,967 for terms not exceeding six months; 5,710 for terms not exceeding two years; and 9 for terms exceeding two years. Sentences of whipping were passed on 408 persons, against 458 in the preceding year. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 6,92,523. Rupees 5,78,179 were realised, of which Rs. 93,494 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings Code of Criminal Procedure.

99. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by magistrates in the mufassal:—

Chapter VIII.

100. There were 2,267 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 9,655 persons were involved. The number of cases and persons involved was less than the number brought before the courts in 1919. Of the persons concerned, 2,123 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Bakarganj (1,984), followed by Faridpur (1,459), and Khulna (980). Bakarganj has headed the list since 1913. Compared with the figures of 1919, there was a large increase in the number of proceedings of this class in Howrah and a marked decrease in Khulna, Faridpur and Bakarganj. In 2,023 cases, 4,794 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 3,949. Of these, 3,778 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 297 after reference to the courts of session under section 123 of the Code, and 3,481 under orders of magistrates, for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

101. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 584 cases, and in the cases of 244 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by magistrates, was 1,388, showing an increase of 304 on the figures for 1919. Four hundred complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, under section 250 of the Code, the accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 996 persons, and orders were made absolute against 307.

Witnesses.

102. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 355,134 as compared with 365,373 in 1919. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 157,538 or 30·7 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 32. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 2,47,850 in 1919 to Rs. 2,96,786 in 1920. Of the total number in attendance, 373,076 (72·8 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 100,451 (19·6 per cent.) on the second day; 31,292 (6·1 per cent.) on the third day; and 7,853 (1·5 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 1,581 less than in 1919. The districts in which the largest percentage of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Murshidabad (3·8); Bakarganj (3·5) and Howrah (2·5). Explanations of these detentions have been dealt with by the High Court.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

103. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,321 or 14 less than in 1919; and the number decided, including the cases pending from the previous year, was 1,254 or 28 less than in 1919. There were 268 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments decreased in twelve, increased in eleven, and remained the same as in the preceding year in three districts. The decrease was marked in the following districts: in Bogra from 73 to 32, in Burdwan from 53 to 28, in Rajshahi from 55 to 30, in Howrah from 53 to 33, in Midnapore from 60 to 50, and in Faridpur from 85 to 76. The increase was noticeable in the 24-Parganas from 69 to 108, in Rangpur from 38 to 74, in Hooghly from 41 to 58, in Dacca from 70 to 84, in Birbhum from 23 to 36, and in Pabna from 45 to 57. The number of commitments was, as in the previous year, largest in Bakarganj (178).

Results of trials.

104. There were 3,738 persons, or 36 more than in 1919 under trial before the courts of session. The cases of 3,000 persons were decided and 715 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 3,000 persons tried, 1,697 or 56·5 per cent. were convicted and 1,164 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 139 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

105. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session:—

Death		7
Transportation	for life	73
	for a term of years	37
Imprisonment	rigorous	1,262
	simple	13
Fine		40
Whipping		7

Of those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences in the cases of two persons included terms of solitary confinement. Thirty-one of the sentences of fine and five of whipping were additional punishments. Besides the above, 297 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (62 for terms not exceeding one year and 235 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	7
	6 months	107
	2 years	463
	7 years	925
Exceeding 7 years		70

Fines to the amount of Rs. 6,088 were imposed by the courts of session, as compared with Rs. 9,070 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 1,779, as compared with Rs. 2,204 in 1919. The amount of the fines realised and paid as compensation rose from Rs. 150 to Rs. 400.

Jury trials.

106. The number of persons tried by jury was 2,513 and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 2,216 and disapproved of it in respect of 297 persons. The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 132 persons and referred the cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials by assessors.

107. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 64. In the cases of 33 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred in the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 18 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 13 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1919 were 90, 50, 16 and 24, respectively. The fall in the number of cases tried with the aid of assessors is due to the extension of the system of trial by jury.

Duration of cases.

108. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 47·6 days in 1919 to 58·8 days in 1920. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was highest in the district of Bakarganj (94·5) followed by Burdwan (90·6), the 24-Parganas (89), Mymensingh (78·3) and Murshidabad (62·6). There was a marked increase from 61 to 94·5 days in Bakarganj, from 61·9 to 90·6 days in Burdwan, from 42·7 to 78·3 days in Mymensingh, from 29 to 51 days in Jalpaiguri, from 36 to 57·7 days in Darjeeling and from 37·7 to 56·1 days in Pabna. On the other hand, there was a noticeable reduction from 62;4 to 4 days in Rajshahi and from 43·9 to 32 days in Nadia.

Witnesses.

109. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 25,561. Of these, 16,465 were examined and 9,096 discharged without examination, against 15,403 and 8,962, respectively, in 1919. Of the total number in attendance 10,184 (39·9 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 7,537 (29·5 per cent.) on the second day; 3,968 (15·5 per cent.) on the third day; and 3,872 (15·1 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day was larger than in 1919 (2·7 per cent.). The High Court have taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 86,678 as compared with Rs. 76,676 in 1919.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

110. Two cases were pending at the commencement of the year, and 64 cases were brought to trial during the year. Of these, 65 were tried during the year and one remained undecided at its close. Altogether 86 persons were tried, of whom 43 were convicted and 43 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 604 and the average duration of cases from commitment was 34·2 days against 49·3 days in 1919.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeal.

111. At the opening of the year, 48 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year, 673 appeals were preferred and 663 were decided, leaving 58 pending at its close. The number preferred and decided was 90 and 84 more than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of ten appeals. Of the appeals preferred against sentences, 512 were from courts of session and 156 from courts of Presidency Magistrates. Five appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

112. Five hundred and four appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 420, reversed in 16, and modified in 59 instances. Nine cases were remanded for re-trial.

One hundred and fifty-six appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 140, modified in four and reversed in eleven cases. One case was remanded for re-trial.

The results of appeals decided, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 912 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals, the sentences on 121 appellants were confirmed, on 91 reduced or altered, on 3 enhanced, and on 38 annulled. In the cases of 45 persons, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeal against acquittal.

113. Three of the appeals preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. In the first case, seven persons were charged with offences under sections 147 and 148 of the Indian Penal Code and were acquitted by a subdivisional officer. The High Court convicted one of the accused under section 448 of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced him to pay a small fine and dismissed the appeal in respect of the other accused. In the second case, the appeal was against the order of

acquittal passed by an honorary Presidency magistrate in respect of three persons who were charged with offences under section 9, clauses (*c*) and (*d*) of the Opium Act and also under section 9, clause (*d*) of that Act read with section 109 of the Indian Penal Code. The High Court dismissed the appeal. In the third case, the accused was charged with offences under sections 143 and 424 of the Indian Penal Code and was acquitted by a subdivisional magistrate. The High Court allowed the appeal and remanded the case to the subdivisional magistrate for adjudication upon the merits of the case.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions courts.

114. There were 204 appeals pending before the courts of session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,475 appeals were preferred, 3,428 were decided and 254 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 98 less than in 1919. In the appeals decided 5,441 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,571 persons, or 28·8 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 1,793 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 765 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 1,241 were acquitted; and in the cases of 69 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The cases of two persons were referred to the High Court. The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 61·8, 14 and 22·8, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the proportions were 46·3, 19·7 and 32 per cent. In the case of admitted appeals, the results on the whole were less favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

Magistrates' courts.

115. In the courts of magistrates, 204 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,660 appeals were preferred, 3,695 were decided and 168 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was 211 more than in 1919.

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of magistrates was 6,390. Of these, the appeals of 1,303 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,681, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,984 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 62·3 per cent. Of the remainder, 756 appellants or 11·8 per cent. obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,558 or 24·3 per cent. their total annulment. In the cases of 92 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. Compared with 1919, the results were more favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

116. Five references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from the verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 63 were made during the year. Sixty-two of these references were decided during the year and six remained undecided at its close. Of the 62 cases disposed of, the verdict of the jury was accepted in 20, set aside in 33, and modified in 7 cases. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

117. Seven references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1920. Six cases in which six persons were concerned were decided during the year. In the cases of three persons, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life and one person was remanded for retrial. The remaining two persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

118. The cases of two persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court. The convictions of the accused, one under section 379, Indian Penal Code, and the other under sections 457 and 380 of the Code were approved and sentences were passed by the High Court in both cases.

Revision.

119. During the year, 177 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 20 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 190 were decided and 7 remained pending. The number reported was 14 more than in 1919. In 91 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 20 a new trial was ordered. In 24 cases the sentences were reduced or altered and in 2 cases enhanced. In the remaining 53 cases, the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,120 cases, an increase of 68 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,119 came before the High Court on application and one was taken up by the Court of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 599 were rejected. Of 520 rules issued, 175 were finally discharged; 142 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 80 cases and quashed in 36. In the remaining 87 cases, a new trial was ordered. In one case taken up by the High Court *suo motu*, the sentence was enhanced.

Applications for transfer.

120. Fifty-nine applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (56 original cases and 3 appeals) from one court or district to another were received during the year and 2 cases were pending from the previous year. Of these, 58 were disposed of and 3 remained pending at the close of the year. Twenty-five were summarily rejected and in two cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 31 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 23, and refused in 8 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

121. Including the cases of accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates, and of those against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 7,427 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was 120 more than in 1919. The applications of 2,097 persons were rejected, while the orders of the lower courts were confirmed in the cases of 2,568 persons. The orders passed were reversed in the cases of 99 persons, modified in those of 13 and the proceedings were quashed in the case of one person. The cases of 199 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,450 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

122. The cases of 3,583 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was 217 more than in 1919. Of the total, the applications of 954 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 1,389 the original sentence or order was upheld. The sentences or orders were modified in the cases of 22 persons and reversed in those of 243 persons; the proceedings were quashed in the cases of 22 persons and new trials or further inquiries were directed in those of 862 persons. The cases of 91 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

123. The cases of 157 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 49 in the previous year. Of these, 155 were dealt with by magistrates and 2 by courts of session. Of the accused persons, none claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of, 110 persons were convicted and 47 were acquitted. In 92 cases the convictions were for offences under special and local laws, in six cases for offences of criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance; in six cases for offences against property; in four cases for offences affecting the human body; in one case for an offence against public justice, and in the remaining case for contempt of lawful authority. The number of European British subjects tried was largest in the 24-Parganas (92).

General. Results of revisional work.

124. Compared with the figures of 1919, there was a considerable increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates in the Presidency town and a slight decrease in the number disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal. There was also an increase in the appellate and revisional work disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal. In the courts of session there was a decrease in the outturn of original and appellate work but a slight increase in that of revisional work. In the High Court, there was a general increase in the criminal work disposed of.

Nine persons (6 in Jessore, 1 in the 24-Parganas and 2 in the Presidency town) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, six were acquitted, two convicted, and one died.

Receipts and charges.

125. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 29,99,020. Of this amount, Rs. 15,54,254 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 1,46,905 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 1,22,025 for process-servers; Rs. 5,13,680 for other establishments; and Rs. 6,62,156 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 18,38,228. Of this amount, Rs. 9,73,733 were under fines; Rs. 1,60,950 under process-fees; Rs. 1,69,097 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 4,03,424 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above and Rs. 1,31,024 were miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1919, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 73,000 and the charges of over Rs. 3,48,000.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1920.]

Jail population.

126. The total number of prisoners admitted to the jails in Bengal during the year 1920 was 82,965 or 5,147 less than in 1919, and the daily average number for the year was 15,357 against 15,887 in the previous year. The average daily excess of population over accommodation was, however, more than 1,700. The prevention of overcrowding is the most difficult problem to be faced in the administration of jails in Bengal, and the conclusions set forth in the Report of the Indian Jails Committee show that the problem is not likely to be solved without much expenditure.

Jail offence.

127. The total number of jail offences committed was 18,559 against 17,955 and the ratio of total punishments to daily average population was 144·53 against 135·61 in 1919. The penalty of whipping was inflicted in 61 cases against 40 in the previous year.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

128. The daily average number of prisoners in hospital was 813 as compared with 878 in 1919 and the death rate decreased from 22·9 to 20·9. The commonest cause of mortality at the two most unhealthy jails, Malda and Jalpaiguri, was malaria, while dysentery proved the main reason at the next two jails, Burdwan and Faridpur, although malaria remained the chief cause of sickness.

Short sentences, Juvenile offenders.

129. No less than 8,826 convicts were sentenced to imprisonment for less than one month and as many as 300 boys and 10 girls under 16 years of age were sent to jail. The attention of the Magistrates has been drawn to this and it is hoped that more use will be made by them of section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the spirit of the recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee, especially in the case of juvenile offenders.

Moral teaching.

130. The policy of Government with regard to religious and moral teaching in the jails has in the past been to rely on voluntary workers in preference to paid professional teachers, but there are at present only five Muhammadan and two Hindu voluntary teachers for about 15,000 prisoners. An endeavour has recently been made to secure more help of this kind.

Prisoners' Aid Societies.

131. The Calcutta Prisoners' Aid Society besides helping adult prisoners on their leaving jail is reported to have rendered very material assistance in

finding employment for homeless boys on their release from the juvenile jail. The "Refuge" also gave shelter to several boys who, for various causes, were not eligible for assistance by the Prisoners' Aid Society.

Warder service.

132. The fact that in 1920 no less than 104 warders resigned out of a total strength of 1,358, supports the view of the Indian Jails Committee that the conditions of the service should be improved. A substantial increment of pay was granted to the warders in October 1920, but it is reported that the men are still dissatisfied.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1920.]

Judicial staff.

133. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1920 consisted of 14 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 10 additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, three Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 43 Subordinate Judges, and 235 Munsifs. In addition, four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and two the powers of a Munsif.

The following changes in the *personnel* of the High Court took place during the year:—

Mr. E. B. H. Panton, I.C.S., continued to officiate as a Judge till the 7th March 1920, Mr. P. L. Buckland officiated as a Judge till the 18th July, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir J. G. Woodroffe, KT., on furlough till the 4th August. He then acted as an additional Judge till the 15th November when he was made permanent, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir E. E. Fletcher, KT., resigned. The Hon'ble Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, KT., officiated as Chief Justice from the 24th March till the 2nd September, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir Lancelot Sanderson, Kt., on furlough. Mr. E. B. H. Panton again officiated as a Judge from the 6th April till the 2nd September, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, KT., officiating as Chief Justice. Mr. A. H. Cuming, I.C.S., officiated as a Judge from the 28th May till the 2nd September, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft, on furlough, from the 23rd April. The Hon'ble Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, KT., and the Hon'ble Sir E. E. Fletcher, KT., resigned their offices from the 12th June and the 15th November, respectively. Mr. A. Majid acted as an additional Judge from the 2nd August till the 2nd September. Mr. H. G. Pearson acted as an additional Judge from the 16th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. L. Buckland made permanent.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year:—

Temporary additional District Judges were employed one at each at Howrah, Midnapur and Rajshahi throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one at Noakhali from the 1st January to the 2nd February, from the 15th April to the 9th October and again from the 15th December till the end of the year; one at Pabna-Bogra from the 18th January till the 16th October and again from the 17th November till the end of the year; one at Bakarganj from the 14th February till the 9th October; and one at Dinajpur from the 6th December till the end of the year.

The appointment of the additional Judge in the Presidency Small Cause Court was made permanent with effect from the 14th May.

Temporary additional Subordinate Judges were employed, one at Bakarganj till the end of the year; one each at Howrah and Dacca throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one each at Rajshahi and Chittagong from the 5th January and the 18th February, respectively, till the 9th October; and one at Noakhali from the 1st March till the 14th April.

Temporary additional Munsifs were employed one each at Chittagong, Dacca (Narayanganj), Dinajpur (Balurghat), Hooghly (Amta), Khulna, Pabna-Bogra (Serajganj), and Rajshahi (Naogaon), and four at Mymensingh (*viz.*, two at Iswarganj and one each at Sadar and Jamalpur) throughout the year exclusive of the civil court vacation; and two at Noakhali from

the 15th June till the 9th October. An additional Munsif was also employed at Rangpur from the 7th July till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

134. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1919 was 3,917, including 90 suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1920 was 2,664, including 48 suits received by transfer from other courts and three remained for retrial during the year, making a total of 6,581 for disposal in 1920. Of the suits instituted during 1920, 1,798 were for money or moveable property, 123 were mortgage suits, and 202 were for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 2,62,87,926 as compared with Rs. 3,13,30,077 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

135. The number of suits decided in 1920 was 2,016. The number undisposed of at the end of the year was 4,565. The number pending at the close of the year exceeded the number pending at the close of the previous year by 648. There were 2,430 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 761 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided—

842 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution,
26 were withdrawn with leave,
164 were determined by compromise,
121 were decreed on confession,
463 were decreed *ex-parte*,
12 were disposed of by reference to arbitration,
241 were decreed after contest, and
147 were dismissed after contest,

Prize cases.

136. The cases against seven ships (in respect of six of which orders had previously been made for delivery to the Lords of the Admiralty upon their requisition) and one claim against the cargo of another, referred to in the reports of the previous four years, were pending at the close of the year.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

137. At the commencement of the year six suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and three suits were transferred to it during the year. Of these, three were disposed of during the year and six remained pending at its close.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

138. During the year, 585 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 13,565 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, for summonses to witnesses, for special leave to file written statements after time) were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, 7,523 were disposed of by the Court, or by a Judge in chambers and the remainder (6,042) by the Registrar and the Master.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, 1899.

139. The number of awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof were 498 and 190, respectively.

References to take accounts, etc.

140. The number of references to take accounts to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, and in like matters, pending at the commencement of the year, was 134. Fresh

references were directed by the Court in 292 cases. Of the total, 293 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and sureties.

141. During the year, the Registrar settled 21 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 90 cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 281 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

142. The number of appeals pending from the previous year was 86, and 116 new appeals were preferred to the Appellate Side of the Court. Of these, 15 were dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted, and 133 were decided. Of the latter, the decrees of the courts of first instance were affirmed in 83, modified in 9 and reversed in 38 cases; three cases were remanded for re-trial. Fifty-four appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, of which none had been pending for more than two years.

References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

143. No reference was pending from the previous year. One reference was made and remained pending at the close of the year.

References under section 51 (1) of the Indian Income Tax Act of 1918.

144. Three references were made during the year. Of these, two were disposed of and one remained undecided at the close of the year.

Applications for the transfer of cases from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

145. Sixty-five cases transferred under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and thirty-nine cases were transferred on applications made under that section during the year. Of the 104 cases for disposal, 30 were disposed of and 74 remained pending at the close of the year.

Nineteen cases transferred under section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure were pending at the commencement of the year, and six cases were transferred under that section during the year. Of the 25 cases for disposal, 13 were disposed of and 12 remained pending at the close of the year.

Two applications, under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year and 29 such applications were made during the year, making a total of 31 cases for disposal. Of these, nine applications were dismissed, in 16 cases the rules issued were discharged, and in six cases the rules issued were made absolute. No case remained pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

146. The number of cases, under the old and new Acts, pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year, was 163 and 770, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 173. Of the 1,106 cases for disposal, 60 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 22 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 38 cases. Two thousand and three applications of a miscellaneous character were also disposed of during the year.

Duration of sittings.

147. For the hearing of original suits and applications, one Judge sat alone for 25 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 93 days, and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 83 days. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of one Judge for 12 days. Appeals from the Original Side and references under section 51 (1) of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1918, occupied a bench of two Judges for 88 days, and a bench of three Judges for three days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

148. Nine appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and three admitted during the year. Of these, three were disposed of and nine remained pending at the close of the year.

149. The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1920:— Receipts and expenditure.

Receipts.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Commission of the Accountant-General	12,196	0	7
Commission on sales by and on security deposits with the Registrar	15,659	10	0
Receiver's commission	32,657	1	7
Other fees realized by means of stamps	4,13,564	7	0
Probate and administration duty	14,07,713	0	0
Fines	435	0	8
Total ...	18,82,225	11	2

Expenditure.

Salaries of Judges engaged on the Original Side and in respect of appeals from that side	1,68,770	0	10
Establishment	3,44,656	1	10
Contingencies	36,849	13	11
Total ...	5,50,276	0	7

150. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:— Taxing Office.

Between party and party	1,050
,, attorney and client	273

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 21,467. This sum is also included in the item "other fees realised by means of stamps."

151. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including under the head of expenditure the salaries of the Judges:— Financial results.

Year.	Receipts (*a*).	Receipts (*b*).	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1918	13,22,591	4,54,204	5,32,976
1919	21,91,537	5,56,800	5,78,008
1920	18,82,225	4,74,512	5,50,276

(*a*) Including the duty raised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.
(*b*) Excluding ditto ditto ditto.

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

152. The number of suits instituted in 1920 was 739,309, an increase of 17,275 on the figures of the previous year. Original suits instituted.

The increase occurred in money, rent and title suits to the extent of 6·03, ·06 and ·3 per cent., respectively. The number of money suits instituted was 294,304 against 277,548 in 1919.

The total value of suits instituted in 1920 amounted to Rs. 12,31,02,982, showing an increase of Rs. 70,41,305 on the total for 1919. The increase is due to the rise in the aggregate value of money, rent and title suits.

153. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in the districts of Nadia, Jessore, Khulna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Pabna—Bogra and Tippera. Local distribution.

The increase was marked in Mymensingh, Tippera, Dacca and Pabna-Bogra and occurred chiefly in money suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (80,627), where the number of money, rent and title suits (36,449, 36,341 and 7,837, respectively) was the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions exceed 60,000.

In Tippera and Dacca the institutions were between 50,000 and 60,000 and in the 24-Parganas, Bakarganj and Faridpur, between 40,000 and 50,000. In respect of rent suits, Mymensingh held the first place with 36,341 institutions and Bakarganj the second place with 31,883 institutions.

In the districts of Midnapur, Rangpur, Jessore, Noakhali and Chittagong the institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000, and in Pabna-Bogra, Nadia, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Hooghly, Khulna, Murshidabad and Burdwan, between 20,000 and 30,000. Birbhum with 14,096 and Bankura with 13,677 show the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

154. The majority of suits instituted was, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show:—

	Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Not exceeding Rs. 10	11,700	86,540	2,836
Not exceeding Rs. 50	1,11,877	1,84,602	15,979
Not exceeding Rs. 100	73,450	59,228	11,578
Not exceeding Rs. 500	88,947	37,941	31,167
Exceeding Rs. 500 or value not stated.	8,330	2,567	13,567
Total ...	2,94,304	3,70,878	74,127

In suits for money or moveables 41·9 per cent., and in rent suits 73·1 per cent. were for sums of less than Rs. 50.

In suits under the rent law, 96·6 per cent. were for realization of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 44·6 per cent. were mortgage suits, 39·9 per cent. were for immoveable property, and 3·8 per cent. were for specific relief. The title suits represent in value more than half the total litigation of the province. Of the 49 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, 48 were title suits and one was a rent suit.

Number of suits disposed of.

155. In addition to the 739,309 suits instituted during the year there were 202,207 suits pending trial from the previous year, and 12,359 suits were revived, or received on remand or review, making a total of 953,875 suits for disposal.

The number of suits disposed of was 716,628, a decrease of 7,303 on the figures of 1919.

Of the total number, 684,199 were disposed of by Munsifs, 18,370 by Subordinate Judges, 13,489 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 570 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease in the Courts of Munsifs and Small Cause Court Judges.

Results of suits decided.

156. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 135,446 cases, or 18·9 per cent., of which 110,354 were dismissed for default; a compromise was effected in 80,975 cases, or 11·3 per cent., and plaintiffs were successful in 500,187 cases, or 69·8 per cent. The results are less favourable to plaintiffs than in the preceding year.

Of the 85,293 suits decided on contest, 71,839 or 84·2 per cent. resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 13,454 or 15·8 per cent. in favour of defendants.

157. The percentage of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, was 4·8, the numbers being 508,533 and 24,551, respectively. The applications were successful in 10,891 cases, or 44·3 per cent. Applications for retrial.

158. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 694,633 to 684,199, a decrease of 10,434. Suits decided by Munsifs.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,747, against 2,800 in 1919. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 25·8 per cent. of the total.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 79,860, or 11·6 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 320, against 347 in 1919. The percentage of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure was 12·5 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 9·2. The figures are:—

Under the ordinary Procedure.		Under Small Cause Court Procedure.		Total.
Contested.	Uncontested.	Contested.	Uncontested.	
63,453	443,939	16,407	160,400	684,199

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 2,255, as compared with 1919.

159. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 18,370, an increase of 3,183 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and Small Cause Court procedure and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 6,411 and under the Small Cause Court procedure, 11,959; of these, 29·02 per cent. and 14·3 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest, both under the ordinary and Small Cause Court procedures, shows a slight decrease, as compared with the previous year. Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

160. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 13,489 original suits, of which 1,691 were contested. The latter shows a decrease of 29, as compared with the previous year. Suits disposed of by Small Court Judges.

161. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:— Average duration of suits.

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested	260	595	242	...
	Uncontested	100	393	128	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested	...	119	110	115
	Uncontested	...	69	65	59

The results show a general increase in the average duration of both contested and uncontested suits except in the courts of District and Additional Judges.

162. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 237,256, against 202,207 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to larger institutions during the year. Pending suits.

Of the pending suits, 10,913 had been pending for more than a year, 81,610 for more than six months and 46,959 for more than three months. The figures show a considerable increase in the arrears. Of the suits pending

over one year, 8,309 were in the courts of Munsifs and 2,604 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing an increase of 4,890 and a decrease of three, respectively, as compared with 1919. A large proportion of these suits were, however, pending for final decree.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Bakarganj (1,249), followed by Midnapur (1,247), Faridpur (943), the 24-Parganas (831) and Mymensingh (773). As compared with the figures of the previous year, the number of year-old suits shows an increase in each of these districts. In all these districts the congestion occurred principally in the Munsifs' courts. As usual, the delays were generally due to adjournments granted at the request of the parties. Additional assistance was given where necessary.

Execution proceedings.

163. There were 128,664 applications for execution of degrees pending from the previous year, and 520,098 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 159,576 cases and partial in 89,672. In 257,313 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 133,221 cases remained pending at the close of the year. As in the two previous years, the number of cases in which execution proceedings were unsuccessful, was most marked in Dacca, Faridpur and Tippera, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings in these districts being 74·8, 65·2 and 60·9, respectively. The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 2,27,37,616.

Debtors were imprisoned in 98 cases; moveable property was sold in 9,494 and immoveable property in 66,737 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

164. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 94,202 to 96,148. The number disposed of rose from 91,318 to 97,681 and the number pending fell from 24,720 to 24,302. Of the cases disposed of, 48,641 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 31,701 were decided *ex parte*, and 17,339 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 48 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 571 had been pending over a year, Burdwan being responsible for the largest number (163).

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted was 7,138, showing an increase of 119. Of these, more than half were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 7,040. The pending file rose from 813 to 904. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in the 24-Parganas (676), followed by Rajshahi (443), Bakarganj (419), Midnapur (383) and Hooghly (343).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

165. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1920 and the number pending at its close were 23,367, 26,163 and 6,143, respectively. The number instituted and pending shows a decrease of 1,926 and 1,434, respectively, while the number disposed of was greater than in 1919 by 1,390. One hundred and fourteen applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899).

The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 100.

The total value of the litigation was Rs. 55,80,895, against Rs. 78,20,112 in the preceding year.

The average duration of contested and uncontested suits was 126 and 81·8 days, against 146·5 and 77·7, respectively, in 1919.

Mode of disposal.

166. Of the suits disposed of, 1,445 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or withdrawn with leave; 18,810 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin; 5,886 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 22 cases the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised ...	8,617
Decreed on confession	2,934
Decreed *ex parte* ...	7,190
Dismissed *ex parte* ...	69
Total ...	18,810

Of the 6,143 suits pending at the close of the year, 3,223 were over three months old, against 3,961 in 1919.

Execution of decrees.

167. Of 18,026 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with during the year, including 7,753 pending from the previous year, 11,578 were determined and 6,448 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 183 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 5,755 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 3,183 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 2,640 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realized was Rs. 5,03,849, as compared with Rs. 15,86,205, in the previous year.

Coercive processes.

168. In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 73 and sale of moveables in 365 cases. These figures show a decrease of 6 and an increase of 25, respectively, on those of 1919.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

169. One hundred and sixteen appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 86 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 148 were decided and 54 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 47 more than in 1919. On the Appellate Side, 87 such appeals were filed during the year and 85 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 125 were decided and 47 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

170. The statement below shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam. The number of first appeals from decrees shows a decrease of 30 and that from orders an increase of 5, while the number of second appeals from decrees and orders shows an increase of 175 and 57, respectively, compared with the figures of the preceding year.

		Pending at the end of 1919.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1920.
First appeals from ...	decrees	576	286	339	523
	orders	165	241	200	206
Second appeals from	decrees	3,814	2,985	2,749	4,050
	orders	104	200	164	140
Total ...		4,659	3,712	3,452	4,919

Appeals decided.

171. The number of first appeals from decrees and orders and of second appeals from decrees disposed of shows a decrease of 88,184 and 18, respectively, while that of second appeals from orders, shows an increase of 120, as compared with the figures of the previous year.

Appeals pending.

172. At the close of the year, 729 first appeals and 4,190 second appeals were pending. Of the former, 523 were from decrees and 206 from orders, and of the latter, 4,050 were from decrees. The total number pending at the close of the year was 4,919, against 4,659 at the close of the previous year.

Civil work of the High Court.

173. The following statement shows in detail the civil business which has come before the High Court in its appellate jurisdiction during each of the past four years:—

	Brought before the Court. (a)				Heard and determined. (a)			
	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
First appeals from ... decrees	334	342	316	286	372	399	427	339
First appeals from ... orders	299	219	236	241	316	290	384	200
Second appeals from decrees	2,716	2,836	2,810	2,985	2,695	3,405	2,767	2,749
Second appeals from orders	128	106	143	200	150	140	44	164
Appeals under the Letters Patent	118	107	321	203	344	102	237	273
References to Full Bench ...	...	2	32	6	...	1	30	9
Applications for review ...	15	18	23	23	18	18	22	23
References	9	4	4	9	6	6	3	10
Motions	5,575	4,931	3,134	1,477	5,575	4,931	3,134	1,477
Rules granted	948	624	773	971	1,121	740	781	891
Divorce cases	4	1	8	7	8	4	8	4

(a) Include cases of Assam.

Of the 286 appeals from original decrees instituted during the year under review, 14 were from Assam and the remainder from Bengal.

Details of value of appeals.

174. The following table shows the value of the appeals from the Original and Appellate decrees of the subordinate civil courts brought before the Court during the year:—

	Appeals from original decrees of subordinate civil courts.	Appeals from appellate decrees of subordinate civil courts.	Second and third appeals under the Letters Patent.
Rs.			
Not exceeding ... 10 ...	...	188	5
Not exceeding ... 50 ...	9	681	71
Not exceeding ... 100 ...	4	379	...
Not exceeding ... 500 ...	36	682	...
Not exceeding ... 1,000 ...	15	156	...
Not exceeding ... 5,000 ...	54	196	1
Not exceeding ... 10,000 ...	61	...	...
Not exceeding ... 1,00,000 ...	51	...	...
Exceeding ... ... 1,00,000 ...	7	...	...
Value not denotable in money ...	49(a)	703(b)	10(c)
Total ...	286	2,985	87

(a) Of these, 41 were will cases, 3 were for partition, 1 was for specific performance, 1 was a Land Acquisition case 1 an apportionment case, 1 a mortgage case and 1 under section 92 of the Civil Procedure Code (Act V of 1908).

(b) Of these, 1 was a suit for ejectment, 3 for declaration, 1 for possession and the rest were suits under sections 105, 106, 107 and 158 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

(c) Of these, 2 were under section 98 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1 from a difference of opinion in a miscellaneous appeal and the rest were suits under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Results of appeals.

175. Of the 339 appeals from original decrees decided, 60 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The result of the appeals decided after contest were that the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 151, reversed in 67, and varied in 36 cases, while 25 cases were remanded.

Of the 2,749 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 66 were uncontested and 909 were dealt with under Order XLI, Rule 11, of the Code of Civil Procedure. One thousand seven hundred and seventy-four appeals were heard and determined, with the result that 1,252 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 209 reversed and 89 varied, and 244 cases were remanded.

Of the 364 appeals from orders decided, 52 were uncontested, 62 were dealt with under Order XLI, Rule 11, of the Code of Civil Procedure and 250 were decided after trial, with the result that 124 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 70 reversed and 20 varied, and 36 cases were remanded.

The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

—		Affirmed.		Modified or reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from	Original decrees	35	116	40	63
	Appellate ,,	569	683	147	151
Miscellaneous appeals ...		55	69	39	51

Appeals to the Privy Council.

176. At the opening of the year, 151 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England and 60 were pending for orders. Fifty-eight new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 43 were struck off or compromised, 166 were despatched to England and 60 appeals were pending at the close of the year, *viz.*, 2 of 1918, 22 of 1919 and 36 of 1920. Of the pending appeals, 8 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

177. The results of 28 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 22 instances, reversed in 4 and varied in 2.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

178. Twenty-one thousand four hundred and three appeals were instituted in 1920, showing a decrease of 1,545, as compared with the previous year.

Of the appeals instituted, 11,561 were in rent suits, 7,392 in title suits, and 2,450 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show a decrease in appeals in rent suits but an increase in appeals in title and money suits.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 2,307 and 6,083, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 32,27,543, and exceeded the total of 1919 by Rs. 2,40,719.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts was 60,040 and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 34·9 per cent., as against 28·5 in 1919. The percentage was highest in Tippera (87·9), followed by Noakhali (56), the 24-Parganas (53) and Hooghly (36·8); and it was lowest in Bankura (16·8), followed by Birbhum (19·2) and Dinajpur (20·2).

The number of appeals instituted was larger than in the previous year in 13, and smaller in 8, districts. The decrease in institutions was most marked in Rajshahi (2,182), Midnapur (1,926), Noakhali (1,196), Mymensingh (238) and Faridpur (103) and the increase in Tippera (1,966), the 24-Parganas (981), Murshidabad (560), Bakarganj (109), Khulna (105) and Nadia (104). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals disposed of.

179. The number of appeals decided was 21,309 and shows an increase of 2,011 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and a decrease of 775 in the number decided by Subordinate Judges, as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (16,534) was 852 more than in 1919.

The increase in disposals was spread over 8 districts and was largest in Midnapur (2,921), followed by Rajshahi (822), Tippera (565) and the 24-Parganas (457). The increase in Midnapur was due to the disposal of a large number of settlement appeals and in the 24-Parganas to that of rent appeals.

On the other hand, there was a noticeable decrease in Bakarganj (1,077), which was due in some measure to the employment of a smaller staff of officers during the year.

Appeals pending.

180. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 24,405 and exceeded the number pending at the end of 1919 by 649.

The number of over one year old appeals further rose from 4,116 to 6,523 during the year. Noakhali was accountable for the largest number, *viz.*, 2,514. Additional assistance has been given to the staff of this district.

Results of appeals.

181. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—In 9,876 cases, or 46·3 per cent., of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 3,126 cases, or 14·7 per cent., it was modified, and in 3,579 cases, or 16·8 per cent., it was reversed. One thousand seven hundred and seven, or 8 per cent., were remanded, and 3,021, or 14·2 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous appeals.

182. Three thousand six hundred and fifty seven miscellaneous appeals were instituted and 3,598 were disposed of during the year, leaving 1,494 appeals pending at the close of the year. The number pending was 132 more than in the previous year.

IV.—General.

General

183. The increase in the number of institutions, coupled with a decrease in outturn, resulted in an increase in the number of pending suits. The work of the appellate courts was marked by a larger outturn, in spite of which there was an increase in the arrears. The number of year old cases was larger than in the previous year both in the original and the appellate courts. On the Appellate Side of the High Court the institutions were more than in the previous year, and there was an increase in the pending file.

Inspection.

184. The courts of 10 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 83 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

185. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,68,61,156, showing an increase of Rs. 1,76,649, and the charges to Rs. 73,19,077 showing an increase of Rs. 10,40,401, on those of 1919. Including the amount realized on account of duty* on probates, etc., the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 95,42,079 and, excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 78,58,695.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	14,62,499(*a*)
In other Courts ...	2,20,885(*a*)
Total ...	16,83,384*

(*a*) The figures are for the financial year 1920-21.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts			Rs.	*Charges.*			Rs.
In stamps	Process fees	...	31,07,360	Salaries of judicial officers		...	29,08,948
	Other fees	...	1,28,30,037	Establishment	Process servers	...	9,10,832
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	...	3,155		Others	...	22,73,413
	Copying and comparing fees	...	6,06,558	Copyists' fees	...	...	4,97,651
	Other receipts	...	3,14,046	Contingencies and refunds		...	7,28,233
	Total	...	1,68,61,156		Total	...	73,19,077

There was an increase in receipts under all heads except "fines." Under the head "process fees" the increase amounted to more than Rs. 64,900. The increase in expenditure was under all heads and was most marked under the head "salaries of judicial officers" which exceeded Rs. 4,89,000.

Registration.

[Statistical returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1920.]

Progress and statistics of 1920.

186. There were 417 offices open at the end of the year as against 408 at the end of 1919. Seven experimental offices were opened during the year under review and 4 other temporary joint offices for short periods.

The total income of the Registration Department increased from Rs. 23,90,927 in 1919 to Rs. 27,65,644 in 1920, *i.e.*, by 15·6 per cent. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 11,84,257 in 1919 to Rs. 13,44,907 in 1920, *i.e.*, by 13·5 per cent. The increase in expenditure during 1920 was mainly due to—(*i*) readjustment of cadre of Sub-Registrars, (*ii*) giving of full effect to the scheme of reorganisation of the ministerial establishment, (*iii*) grant of an *ad interim* allowance to the ministerial establishment, (*iv*) larger expenditure on extra establishment entertained to cope with the increase in Registration, and (*v*) opening of new offices.

Results.

187. The outstanding feature of the working of the Indian Registration Act in Bengal for the year under review is the increase in registrations which rose from 1,855,834 in 1919 to 2,086,448 in 1920, *i.e.*, by 12·4 per cent.

Taking the Province by divisions, the largest increase occurred in the Dacca Division, the increase being 21·2 per cent. over the figures of 1919. Next comes the Chittagong Division with an increase of 20·5 per cent. The Presidency Division, excluding Calcutta, shows an increase of 14·3 per cent. In the Rajshahi Division the increase has been 1·2 per cent. only, while in the Burdwan Division there was a very slight decrease.

In spite of the passing of the Rent Act, Calcutta, which is in a class by itself, has not shown any decrease in the number of registrations.

Working of the Marriage Act III of 1872.

188. Twenty-eight marriages were registered during the calendar year 1920 under the Marriage Act III of 1872 against 35 in 1919, 20 being registered in Calcutta, two each in Dacca and Mymensingh and one each in Howrah, Nadia, Birbhum and Chittagong. There were 46 Marriage Registrars including 28 *ex officio* Registrars at the end of the year 1920 as against 47 at the end of the previous year. Of the 46 Marriage Registrars only 8 registered marriages.

Working of the Mahammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazis Act.

189. Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force in the whole of this Presidency. The number of offices at the end of the year 1920 was 303 against 301 at the end of the year 1919. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year was 75,469 against 72,111 in 1919 showing an increase of 4·6 per cent. The increase was spread over all the Divisions and may be attributed partly to the growing popularity of the Act and partly to

the establishment of offices within easy reach of registrants. The total receipts of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,47,477-7-6 during 1920 against Rs. 1,40,098-15-6 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 5·2 per cent.

Working of the Indian Companies Act 1913 (VII of 1913).

190. The number of companies limited by shares in operation in Bengal at the close of the year was 2,150 with a total nominal capital of Rs. 2,74,02,03,240 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 73,06,26,969 as compared with 1,744 companies with Rs. 2,31,60,72,040 nominal and Rs. 53,77,82,688 paid-up capital in the preceding year. The number of companies registered during the year was 452 as compared with 532 registered in 1919-20. Though a decrease from the previous year the figure is still far in excess of that for any other year since the present Act came into force.

Of the new companies registered 436 were limited by shares, 3 by guarantee and 13 were incorporated under Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860). There was a large decrease in the number of mills and presses, tea and planting, mining and quarrying companies, incorporated during the past financial year. This is traceable to the stringency of the money market. There was also a slight falling off in the number of trading and manufacturing companies, but they are as yet far more numerous than for many years past with the sole exception of 1919-20. Of the new companies registered during the year under review, 339 were under Indian management as compared with 306 and 71 in the years 1919-20 and 1918-19, respectively. It is inferred from these figures that the educated Indian community is taking a greater interest in company promotion. Four hundred and sixty-six companies increased while twenty-eight decreased their capital against 344 and 19, respectively, in 1919-20.

Thirty companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, and were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct as compared with thirty-six in the previous year. The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources during the year, aggregated Rs. 1,72,088-8-0 against Rs. 2,27,867-4-0 in 1919-20. The decrease is attributed to the smaller number of new companies registered during the year under review and the smaller proportion of the nominal capital of the companies.

Seven new auditors' certificates were granted during the year under section 144 (*a*) of the Act. The register of auditors at the close of the year showed that 11 auditors certificated by this Government were entitled to audit companies' accounts throughout British India while the operations of 24 certificate holders were restricted to this Presidency.

There were 36 prosecutions under the Indian Companies Act during the year and one was pending from the previous year. Of these 31 ended in convictions, two were withdrawn and four remained pending at the close of the year.

Working of the Provident Insurance Societies Act 1912 (V of 1912).

191. No change has taken place in the state of affairs prevailing under the provisions of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912. The number of societies, *viz.*, two, still in existence, is the same as in the preceding year.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1920-21. Statistics of British India—Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number of municipalities.

192. A new municipality was created at Bhola (Bakarganj); the total number of municipalities in Bengal thus became 116.

Elections.

193. The elective system was in force in all except five municipalities. At present under section 14 of the Bengal Municipal Act, Government appoint one-third of the Commissioners of a municipality which has the elective system. In 1919, Government decided that an experiment should be made in certain municipalities, whereby the elected Commissioners, subject

to Government control, should be invited to co-opt the remaining one-third of their body. This privilege was granted to the elected Commissioners of Nabadwip, Comilla, Chandpur and Jessore; it was found necessary to revert to the old system in Nabadwip. All except 12 municipalities have the right to elect their own Chairmen. The latter number has been reduced to five since the close of the year.

General elections were held in 16 municipalities. Little interest was shown in the municipal elections of Chandpur and Cox's Bazar, while there was no poll in any ward in Sherpur nor in one ward of Nawabganj.

Litigation in connection with the general election of the Kotrung Municipality held in 1918-19 was continued, and an appeal was preferred before the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly against the decision which the Civil Court had given in favour of the municipality. The Subordinate Judge set aside the election and passed a perpetual injunction on 17th May 1921, restraining the new Municipal Board from transacting any business. The Chairman preferred an appeal to the High Court, which has since set aside the order of the Subordinate Judge. The elections in two wards of the Maniktala Municipality and in one ward of the Basirhat Municipality were set aside by the Civil Court, appeals against which are pending in the High Court.

Meetings.

194. One hundred and sixty-one meetings or, on the average, one in every 14 failed for want of a quorum. The failure was most marked in Baduria where 6 out of 14 meetings proved abortive. The Commissioners of the North Barrackpore, Gobordanga and Murshidabad municipalities failed to hold monthly meetings. Eight out of 18 Commissioners of the Barasat Municipality absented themselves from several consecutive meetings while the attendance of the official Commissioners in this and eight other municipalities in the Presidency Division is reported to have been irregular.

Ratepayers and voters.

195. The number of ratepayers rose from 319,906 to 322,466 and the population residing within municipal limits (2,031,500) showed an increase of 57,700 according to the last census. The ratio of ratepayers to the population averaged nearly 16 per cent. in the Presidency as a whole, and varied from 37·5 per cent. in Kumarkhali to 3·3 per cent. in Titagarh, a mill town with a large cooly population. Other towns in which rates are paid by less than one-tenth of the people are the mill municipalities of Garden Reach, Bhatpara, Garulia, Champdani and Bhadreswar as well as Darjeeling and Narayanganj.

Assessment and taxation.

196. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 2-11-9 showing a slight falling off, which is due to an increase in population according to the last census. The incidence is highest in the suburban municipality of Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 9-7-2). Next come the hill stations of Darjeeling (Rs. 8-8-4) and Kurseong (Rs. 7-0-11). In only two other towns (Howrah and Chittagong) it is above Rs. 5 while it is below Re. 1 in 31 municipalities or nearly one-fourth of the total number falling in two cases to below 8 annas a head.

A general or partial revision of assessment was made in about half the number of municipalities, the net result being an increase of Rs. 3,17,209 in the municipal demand of the residency as a whole. In Cossipore-Chitpur the net increase of revenue amounted to Rs. 22,601, of which more than half was due to the assessment of new jute godowns. Maniktala, Burdwan and Barisal secured each an increase of more than Rs. 10,000 while in Bally an enhancement of the rate of taxation in three out of four wards brought in an additional income of Rs. 17,451. The revision of assessment in Kurseong is subject to the result of no less than 200 appeals, but the Chairman expects an increase of Rs. 6,000 in municipal revenue. A water-rate and tax on arable land were imposed for the first time in Nator and Sherpur, respectively. In the former town the tax on persons which had been in force in 5 out of 12 wards was replaced by a rate on holdings.

Collections.

197. There was a satisfactory increase of Rs. 2⅕ lakhs in collections, the percentage on the current demand rising from 90 to nearly 96. In 13 municipalities the collections were equal to or in excess of the current demand and in 17 they were over 99 per cent. On the other hand, the ratio was under 85 per cent. in nine municipalities, falling as low as 66 per cent. in

Bally. Garulia and Nalchiti alone collected the full demand without any remission. The amount of remissions was smaller than in previous year and represented 2·5 per cent. on the current demand. The small municipality of Debhatta remitted more than quarter of its current demand while five others *viz.*, Kharar, Bansberia, Bally, Holisahar and Taki, remitted more than 10 per cent. Except in the case of Bansberia where remissions were granted on account of vacant holdings and exemptions allowed on account of altered circumstances of ratepayers, no explanation has been given for the high percentage of remission.

The returns show that there is a growing tendency to allow municipal revenue falling in arrears. In the Presidency as a whole, the balances outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 7,06,896 against 6 lakhs in the previous year and Rs. 5,40,076 in the year 1918-19. Howrah shows the largest balance outstanding (*viz.*, Rs. 2,11,780) and although an explanation has been given, the real reason for this heavy accumulation seems to be the weakness of the municipal executive in enforcing punctual payment by resorting, where necessary, to coercive measures which were adopted only in five cases. Other municipalities which had unduly large outstandings were Cossipore-Chitpur, Mymensingh, Bally, Dacca, Hooghly-Chinsura, Burdwan and Chittagong. In the case of the first named municipality the balance of Rs. 65,000 was mainly due to the non-payment of taxes due from the Eastern Bengal Railway, but in other cases, no satisfactory explanation has been furnished. By a mistaken leniency towards defaulters, the Commissioners frequently impose a heavy handicap on their administration. On the other hand, four municipalities had no outstanding balances while in ten other cases they were less than Rs. 100.

Income and expenditure.

198. The total receipts including opening balance fell from Rs. 98,29,204 to Rs. 97,43,540; the decrease under the heads "Opening balance" and "Grants and contributions" counterbalancing the increase in receipts from taxation. Expenditure also fell from Rs. 81,33,115 to Rs. 74,27,226, mostly under the head "Public health and convenience."

Closing balances.

199. The closing balances rose from Rs. 17 lakhs to Rs. 23 lakhs, a large portion of this represents unspent grants and loans received from Government for improvement schemes, such as water-supply, drainage and sewerage, and includes the credit balance of special funds (*e.g.*, water, lighting, hackney-carriage and dispensary). About one-third of the total number of municipalities closed the year with a balance exceeding one quarter of the total expenditure. On the other hand, a number of municipalities failed to keep adequate working balances and in 13 cases they were insufficient to meet outstanding liabilities. Debhatta with an ordinary expenditure of Rs. 3,000 had a balance of Rs. 51 only while Satkhira with an expenditure of more than Rs. 9,000 closed the year with the exiguous sum of Rs. 43 in hand and with a liability of Rs. 492. In the case of Mymensingh, Muktagacha, Tollygunge, Barasat and Baduria the outstanding liabilities exceeded largely the closing balances. The worst offender was Muktagacha which had outstanding liabilities of Rs. 4,563, or nearly half of its current demand, against an actual balance of Rs. 574.

Education.

200. The amount spent on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 1,06,056, was Rs. 2,83,855 or about 3½ per cent. of the municipal income as against 4·2 per cent. in the preceding year. The expenditure on primary education fell from Rs. 1,34,221 to Rs. 1,28,713, but it is satisfactory to note that only 13 municipalities, as against 22 in the previous year, failed to spend at least 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income—the percentage which is taken to represent the amount required for the education of half the number of boys of primary school-going age. On the other hand, the percentage was over 5 per cent. in 53 municipalities and over 10 per cent. in 5.

The Rangpur Municipality resolved to levy an education cess under the Bengal Primary Education Act of 1919, and the Municipal Commissioners of Darjeeling decided to establish two primary schools, *viz.*, one for boys and the other for girls, each to accommodate 300 students, and received a Government grant for the construction of the boys' school during the year. A model

building, which will be a credit to the town, is now under construction. The Chandpur Municipality approved of the scheme drawn up by Mr. E. E. Biss regarding voluntary primary education.

Water-supply.

201. The water-works at Mymensingh and Noakhali were completed during the year. Additions were made to those at Dacca and Burdwan. Considerable progress was made with the Midnapore water-works. A scheme for the improvement of the Darjeeling water-works was sanctioned by Government and is in progress. Schemes for the extension of the water-supply at Serampore and for the installation of a piped supply in one ward of Naihati were sanctioned. A modest scheme was also sanctioned for Patuakhali; a Government grant of Rs. 10,000 was made to meet the cost of sinking an experimental bore hole in connection with the scheme. A loan of Rs. 1,00,000 was granted by Government to the Krishnagar Municipality for the execution of its water-works scheme. Projects for water-supply at Rishra Konnagar, Faridpur, Ranaghat, Nabadwip and Bogra were prepared, but were not taken in hand on account of financial difficulties. Water-supply projects for certain other municipalities are under preparation.

The resources of many of the municipalities in Bengal are too limited to permit of their undertaking costly water-supply schemes. It is, however, believed that satisfactory schemes of a cheaper type, based on artesian borings or tube-wells, can be devised for the smaller towns, and Government propose to purchase a boring plant for this purpose. In some municipalities the water-supply is obtained from tanks; where this is the case, it is clear that the Commissioners should be most vigilant and active in their measures to reserve the tanks.

Drainage.

202. The drainage scheme for Budge-Budge was in progress. Administrative approval was given to the drainage project for Krishnagar and a portion of Rangpur. The Municipal Commissioners of Hooghly-Chinsura, Serampore and Suri could not take up their drainage schemes for want of funds. Minor works were carried out in Bally, Bankura, Khulna, Chittagoing, Comilla, Darjeeling and Dinajpur.

Conservancy.

203. The conservancy charges were about Rs. 5¾ lakhs in excess of the receipts from latrine fees which were levied in all but 16 municipalities. Certain municipalities in the Presidency Division derived income from the sale of nightsoil and the levy of rents for the surplus land of trenching-grounds.

The sewerage scheme for Kurseong was completed and that for Dacca was in progress. Sewerage schemes for which the local mills contributed liberally were prepared for Naihati and a portion of Kamarhati. It is hoped that Government sanction may shortly be accorded to the important Titagarh scheme. A scheme for Bhatpara, which is also of the first importance, is under preparation.

Public health.

204. It is a good sign that for the past few years almost all municipalities have been taking measures to improve sanitation by filling up or clearing insanitary tanks and ditches and by removing jungle.

Effective steps were taken to prevent the spread of cholera and small-pox which broke out in several municipalities in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. Faridpur offered a reward for information of the first case of these diseases so that the Sanitary Inspector might immediately visit the locality, trace out the source of infection and adopt necessary measures for disinfection.

Influenza was responsible for no less than 262 deaths in Darjeeling. Vigorous steps were taken to cope with the epidemic, and the special medical staff had considerable success in their efforts to induce infected persons to proceed to the hospital, so as to secure a certain amount of segregation and more efficient treatment. Influenza tabloids were distributed gratis by Dinajpur, Azimganj and Jessore. Many municipalities distributed quinine among the poor people.

Vaccination depôts were opened in different parts of Naihati and several suburban municipalities. Additional vaccination staff, male and female, was employed in Dacca and Narayanganj. House-to-house vaccination, free of charge, was carried out in Dacca to popularise vaccination.

In the Burdwan Division all municipalities with one exception employed the requisite number of Sanitary officers. Rajpur and Kamarhati failed to appoint Sanitary Inspectors while the post of Health Officer remained vacant in Krishnagar, Chittagong and Barisal owing to the lack of qualified officers.

By-laws were framed by a number of municipalities for the eradication of water-hyacinth, and notices under section 200 of the Bengal Municipal Act were issued by some to remove this pest from tanks and water-ways.

Public works.

205. The percentage of the outlay on public works to the total expenditure varied in the smaller towns from 2·1 in Birnagar to 56·9 in Taki and in larger municipalities from 5·4 in Kurseong to 30·4 in the South Suburban Municipality. The new town hall and municipal office in Darjeeling was completed.

Loans.

206. Loans amounting to Rs. 3½ lakhs were granted to five municipalities. Altogether 43 municipalities were in debt to Government; their total liabilities at the end of the year amounted to more than Rs. 40 lakhs.

Audits of accounts and embezzlements.

207. The accounts of almost all municipalities except Berhampore and Chittagong were audited during the year. No case of embezzlement was brought to light except a few cases of temporary misappropriation. The collection accounts of the Burdwan Municipality were in a chaotic state, and a Sub-Deputy Collector was deputed to remedy the defects disclosed.

General Remarks. Burdwan Division. Howrah.

208. The total ordinary income of the municipality fell from Rs. 13,58,278 to Rs. 13,54,719 while the total expenditure declined from Rs. 12,94,332 to Rs. 11,85,664. The decrease in expenditure occurred mainly under the head "Public health and convenience" owing to the restriction of repairs of roads imposed by the dearth of metal. The current demand on account of municipal taxes rose from Rs. 12,16, 985 to Rs. 13,25,459. The latrine fund had been working at a deficit since 1917-18, and the Municipal Commissioners resolved to revise the scale of latrine fees with effect from the 1st April 1921. The scheme for the improvement of water-works could not be taken up for want of funds, and the Municipal Commissioners have resolved to approach Government for a loan for the purpose. Analyses of the filtered water show the supply to be on the whole good and pure. Conservancy was as before carried on for the most part under the supervision of ten ward committees. Difficulties were experienced in the recruitment of sweepers and other menial staff. The *mehtars* and sweepers went on strike and their wages had to be increased entailing an additional burden of about Rs. 50,000 on the latrine fund. Owing to want of funds, the proposal for the removal of Nandibagan trenching-ground has not taken any practical shape. A sum of Rs. 45,764 was spent on the maintenance of stone and brick roads against Rs 81,636 in the previous year. Out of 68·69 miles of metalled roads, 5·13 miles were metalled during the year against 20·33 miles in the previous year; the programme of road repairs was held up owing to the difficulty of obtaining metal. Health conditions in the municipal area, though a little better than in the preceding year, cannot be considered satisfactory. The birth-rate was 20·20 per mille against 21·78, while the death-rate was 43·08 per mille against 57·86 of the preceding year.

The administration of the Burdwan Municipality continued to be vested in a body of nominated Municipal Commissioners, who, however, are said to have shown as much vigour and zeal as though they were responsible to a vigilant and informed electorate. Conditions are not favourable to efficient administration. The town is hemmed in between the Damodar embankment and the embankment of the East Indian Railway, dotted over with innumerable tanks in various stages of preservation, and is therefore naturally a hot-bed of malaria. Practically no systematic attempt has been made in the past to tackle this disease, the Commissioners having concentrated their efforts on securing a good supply of filtered water and thus obtaining immunity from water-borne diseases. Nevertheless, much has been accomplished, and the foundations of further progress have been laid. In particular, the Commissioners have brought about a substantial reduction of a large volume of arrear demands.

The towns of Asansol and Raniganj suffer in some respects from their situation in the coalfields and the proximity of large industrial works. The year under report witnessed much labour unrest, with the result that the

menial staff of these municipalities showed a hankering for less work and more pay. The consequence was an increased burden on the municipal finance while the conservancy service was very indifferent. There was an unfortunate cleavage between the railway representatives on the Asansol municipal board and the Indian municipal commissioners, the latter opposing the compromise whereby on the extension of the elective system the railway settlement is to be made a self-governing ward with an income of its own while the railway officials passed several ill-considered resolutions in favour of lavish expenditure which, had they been brought into effect, would have made the municipality bankrupt.

In Chandrakona, faction spoils to a large extent any possibility of good work; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been frequent absentees from the meetings. As regards the Midnapore Municipality Mr. Cook observes :—

" The executive has exercised their power on more than one occasion in a manner detrimental to the interest of the ratepayers. In one case, it was proposed to lease out to a private individual a public roadway leading to an old established bazar, thereby cutting off access to this bazar of a large part of the townfolk living to the west of the roadway."

209. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas criticizes the municipal administration of several towns in his district, such as Tollygunge, Panihati, Jainagar, South Dum-Dum, Barasat, Baduria, Gobordanga, Halisahar, etc.; but, on the other hand, the Cossipore-Chitpur, Baranagar, Garden Reach, Titagarh, Bhatpara, Naihati and Baruipur municipalities are said to do good work and to be steadily improving local conditions. Steady progress is being made with schemes for water-supply and sewerage in Naihati, for sewerage in Titagarh and for flood-flush drainage in Budge-Budge. Presidency Division.

" Mr. Prentice points out that the provision of an improved water-supply for Cossipore-Chitpur is of great importance not only from the sanitary point of view but also from the point of view of public safety. A scheme for an unfiltered water-supply for purposes of fire-control has been suggested; but, as he points out, the Commissioners are naturally reluctant to commit themselves to the dual system while there is any chance of obtaining a sufficient supply of filtered water for all purposes, *e.g.*, under a satisfactory riparian water-supply scheme. The position in Budge-Budge is more difficult, as it is a long way south of Calcutta, and the supply of water from a central scheme might be expensive. However, the Commissioners have decided to ask the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal, to frame a scheme for their consideration, and his proposals are awaited. Unfortunately the deep tube-wells that have been so successful in mills at Titagarh and elsewhere have not proved such a success in Garden Reach and Budge-Budge; otherwise there might have been a fairly simple solution of the difficulty.

" The most important problem of municipal drainage in the district of the 24-Parganas are bound up with the fortunes of the Grand Trunk Canal schemes which for years past has held up schemes for the improvement of the drainage of Maniktala, Cossipore-Chitpur and part of South Dum-Dum as well as of those of the riparian municipalities whose drainage it was proposed to lead into the Bagjolla khal.

" There has been considerable improvement in the market of Panihati and in one or two markets in Baranagar. But there are still complaints about the failure of the owners of the Garulia market to comply with the requisitions of the Municipal Commissioners. The condition of the market in Joynagar and Gobordanga is a good example of how the public welfare is subordinated to private interest.

" More vigorous action is desirable in the improvement of insanitary *bustis*. Practically no schemes under section 245 of the Act are under preparation in any of the municipalities in this district, and yet some of the *bustis* to be seen in some of the best municipalities are insanitary in the extreme.

" There is great need for the more effective personal supervision of the municipal staff, indoor and outdoor, by the local executives of many of the municipalities in this district."

The Khulna Municipality in general is doing its best for the health of the town, but is handicapped by want of funds.

Among other minor municipalities in the Presidency Division the most striking features of the year were the prevalence of strong party faction in Azimganj, so that opposition was not always honest, the practical bankruptcy of Satkhira after the inauguration of the water-supply, the reluctance in Jessore to issue warrants of distress and the temporary failure of the Berhampore water-supply owing to shortage of coal.

The Commissioner of the Division observes :—

" Bad administration is too often at fault owing to the failure of the executive to make full use of their powers of coercion under the Act so as to remove common defects without cost to municipal funds. Though the main difficulty is want of money, the result for the money spent is, in default of proper supervision, not always the best. Without the growth of a strong public opinion supporting sanitary measures and vigorous control there can be no marked improvement under present conditions.

* * * * * *

" Nor do I see signs of any new spirit looking for a leader to carry broader views into effect. Even if a committee does not dare to face the capital outlay, I find no bias in favour of private enterprise in matters of public concern. And yet in the matter of lighting or water-supply, private companies might be expected to come forward if they be given proper encouragement."

Dacca Division.

210. The Commissioner observes that it is difficult to find in most of the municipalities persons able and willing and with sufficient leisure to perform the work of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The average work turned out is, however, in his opinion, fair. Mr. Lindsay, the Magistrate of Dacca, writes as follows as to the working of the municipalities in his district :—

" The municipalities have shared in the difficulties universally caused by high prices, but they have carried on their services without loss of efficiency. In both cases, however, they handicap themselves by bad collection of rates in spite of the ample powers given them by law. Commissioners themselves are often among the defaulters and are only too ready to intercede for defaulters among their constituents. Against these the municipal staff does not dare to take drastic action with the result that almost three-fourths of the collections are realised in the last quarter, and even when collections have been good, as in this year, 7 per cent. of the current demand is in arrear compared with ½ per cent. in England. Municipal work could be carried much more easily if only collections were made promptly and fearlessly. This can only be done by making the Commissioners personally responsible for these collections as is the case with most local authorities in England."

Chittagong Division.

211. The administration of Chittagong has not much improved. The roads generally are badly kept up, but considering the high cost of brick material and the expense of running the water-works nothing else could be expected. Besides there are said to be so many parties among the Municipal Commissioners that it is a difficult task to carry any measure through at a meeting. Considerable improvement was effected in the financial position of the Comilla Municipality. The Commissioners of Chandpur deserve credit for adopting the scheme of voluntary primary education, but they have lately shown a deplorable tendency to interest themselves in party politics to the detriment of their administrative efficiency.

Rajshahi Division.

212. The Magistrate of Rajshahi observes :—

" Rampur-Boalia Municipality has been the subject of unfavourable comment annually for some time, and I see no indications of improvement. Their finances are in a deplorable state, and I can only attribute this to an entire lack of any desire for improvement. I am convinced that a little energy and personal attention would set the municipality on its legs, but these appear to be far to seek. The auditor's reports for some time past have drawn attention to persistent irregularities which the Commissioners apparently do not trouble to correct. Conditions at Nator are better."

There is said to be a lack of any real civic spirit in the three municipalities in Malda.

The collections were very unsatisfactory both in the Pabna and the Serajganj municipalities. There is also no proper increase in taxation. Neither of the municipalities has taken steps to introduce the holding rate. Until this is done there is little hope of improving the municipal finances. Roads are said to be neglected and proper steps are not taken to improve the drains.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling writes as follows:—

" The municipality of Kurseong is much indebted to Mr. Addis, the Chairman, for the ungrudging way in which he has spent his time and energies in carrying on its business. It is uphill work. Kurseong has a piped water-supply, and its sewerage scheme is nearing completion. Its lighting is poor, its market (a private property) is in a congested locality, its arrangements for the slaughter of cattle and for the sale of meat are most defective, its surface drainage owing to deficient flushing is bad and the majority of its houses have grave sanitary defects. The income of the municipality is insufficient to finance an adequate loans programme, and there seems little prospect of the ratable value of the town increasing unless the town can be popularised by the development of vacant lands (private property) for building sites. Mr. Addis has proposed, with the small margin of income over expenditure which the revised assessment is yielding, to raise a loan for the construction of a modern meat market and slaughter-house while the possibility of embarking on an electric lighting scheme is under consideration."

The Commissioners of Darjeeling are reported to have shown considerable interest in the discharge of their duties and to have assisted in the smooth working of the municipality. Commissioners as a body are said to be too progressive and anxious to improve the amenities of their town, which is fortunate in the public spirit and mutual co-operation of its municipal representatives. The Commissioner of the Division observes that no less than three of the municipalities in the division had absentee Chairmen during the year under report; it seems to be a serious mistake to elect as Chairman a person who is likely to spend most of the year outside the limits of his municipality.

Calcutta Corporation.

[Report on the Administration of the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1920-21.]

Census.

213. The census which was taken on the 18th March 1921 was disappointing. Including the port and the maidan, the preliminary total for Calcutta was 903,173 as against 896,067 in 1911, an increase of less than 1 per cent. against 5·7 and 24·3 per cent. at the two preceding census. The accuracy of the census was challenged by the Corporation which had further enquiries made to test the figures in certain areas, where the census had showed a decrease of population. The census of Calcutta has always presented peculiar difficulties—more especially in the wards, in which Europeans preponderate.

The method employed in making a count of Europeans and Anglo-Indians—who fill up their own schedules—are to some extent dependent for their success on the personal interest shown by these communities in the census, and frequently there is some tendency on their part " to shirk the labour of filling in and making over the schedules."

Election.

214. The seventh general election of Ward Commissioners was held on the 21st March 1921. There were 49,060 voters with 124,271 votes, as compared with 38,412 voters and 95,942 votes in 1918. The voters showed little keenness and the votes cast were only 38 per cent. of the voting power of the contested wards as against 53 per cent. in 1918. In 15 wards out of 25 there was no contest at all; and it was only in three wards that any real keenness was evinced.

Revenue Funds.

215. The funds opened with a balance of Rs. 53,26,648. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,52,22,180 and the payments to Rs. 1,59,39,378. Though the expenditure exceeded the receipts by nearly 7¼ lakhs, the year ended with a closing balance of 46 lakhs. On the basis of assets and liabilities the income amounted to Rs. 1,52,03,872 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,61,62,517. The heavy expenditure which must be incurred on account of water-supply and drainage projects and the general increase in expenditure (establishment, repairs and all municipal services) appear to render some increase in the rates inevitable.

The 5 per cent. debenture loan of 1890-91, amounting to 20 lakhs, was repaid and the raising of two new loans, aggregating Rs. 64,97,900, was sanctioned during the year. The liability of the Corporation on account of loans stands at Rs. 5,24,75,300. The total charges on outstanding loans amounted to Rs. 34,82,681 and the sinking funds showed a balance of Rs. 42,55,233 after writing the securities down to market value. The Chairman estimates the margin up to which further borrowing is permissible as Rs. 2½ crores; of this amount, Rs. 2 crores will be required for the water-supply scheme, while the continued silting up of the Bidyadhari may involve large capital expenditure on a new outfall. The finances of the Corporation have for some years past showed a rapid expansion, and a remarkable development of municipal activities has been justified. But it is to be feared that the enormous expenditure which the water-supply scheme involves must cause a check, until the ratable value of the city still further increases, to the large programme of capital works, which their increased borrowing capacity has enabled the commissioners to undertake.

Assessment Department.

216. The assessed annual valuation of the city rose to Rs. 5,60,60,063 on the 31st March 1921, there being an increase of Rs. 31,67,300 in the total valuation of the city. This was due to a general revision of assessment and to the construction of new buildings.

Surveyor's Department.

217. The demand on the department for the preparation of new schemes continued to be heavy. Plans and estimates were prepared for 148 projects covering an area of 1,183 bighas and estimated to cost Rs. 249 lakhs. About 17 bighas of land were acquired at a cost of Rs. 12,72,147. For the reasons already stated, this large programme must probably, for some time, remain to a large extent in abeyance.

Collection Department.

218. The total demand of the year was Rs. 1,03,08,726 of which Rs. 99,43,084 were collected and Rs. 2,69,140 were remitted as cancelled. The percentage of collection on the gross current demand, less the amount pending with the assessor, was 97·76 and on the net current demand was 99·93.

Bustee Department.

219. The useful work of the Bustee Department was pressed on. Sixteen bighas of insanitary *bustee* lands were cleared for building, and about a mile and a quarter of new *bustee* roads were opened out and sanitary conveniences were constructed. Thirty-six private passages were improved.

Water-supply.

220. The average quantity of water supplied daily during the year amounted to 68 million gallons (37 million gallons filtered and 31 million gallons unfiltered) and the daily average consumption per head within the municipal area was 74½ gallons (40 filtered and 34½ unfiltered).

The water-supply was not adequate especially in the south of the town, and the Corporation adopted a scheme for the improvement of the supply drawn up by Mr. St. George Moore. The scheme, which provides for a supply of 70 million gallons of filtered and 40 million gallons of unfiltered water daily, has been sanctioned by Government. It is estimated to cost a little over 2 crores and will take nearly 5 years to complete.

Drainage.

221. A large length of sewers was constructed during the year and work was commenced on more than one important drainage scheme.

Regular observations show that the silting of the Bidyadhari, which is the drainage outlet of Calcutta, continues and the Corporation do not anticipate that spill areas, which were opened for the improvement of the river, will much prolong its life.

Lighting Department.

222. Except for a strike of workmen employed by the Oriental Gas Company, which left the city for a time in darkness—mitigated to some extent by the temporary lighting which the Superintendent's energy and resource enabled him to arrange—the efficiency of the lighting department was well maintained.

Roads.

223. Owing to the withdrawal of tenders by contractors and the prohibitive rates quoted for brick metal, considerable difficulty was experienced in carrying out road repairs and improvement works during the year. As a result, expenditure on roads repairs had to be curtailed and the total expenditure on this account amounted to Rs. 6,32,000 as compared with Rs. 9,53,000 of the preceding year. The Corporation are now trying to restore the roads to their former condition and have undertaken a big programme of asphaltum roads.

Conservancy.

224. The daily average quantity of refuse dealt with was 1,136 tons. The total expenditure on account of street cleansing, the incinerator and the municipal railway amounted to Rs. 16,68,000.

Five lorries for the removal of refuse were purchased during the year. A number of sunken bins were provided and other arrangements made for an experimental service. The experience has demonstrated the practical possibility of motor transport for the removal of refuse in Calcutta.

Food Inspection.

225. Seven hundred and fifty-two samples of *ghee* were analysed, of which 58 or 7·7 per cent. were found adulterated. There were 114 prosecutions during the year, of which 50 ended in conviction, and fines, aggregating Rs. 10,575, were imposed. There has been a steady decrease in the percentage of *ghee* found adulterated since the passing of the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act of 1917, and the quality of *ghee* sold in wholesale and retail shops has improved. But the *ghee*, with which sweetmeats are prepared, still continues to be of inferior quality. No improvements in this direction can be hoped for until the new Calcutta Municipal Bill is passed into law.

The total number of samples of foodstuffs analysed was 3,611 as against 3,551 in the previous year. Among the commonly adulterated articles of foodstuffs, besides *ghee*, 293 out of 722 samples of milk, 71 out of 550 samples of mustard oil, and 7 out of 179 samples of butter, were found adulterated. The total number of prosecutions instituted was 1,460 as against 1,346 in the previous year, and the fines imposed amounted to Rs. 27,650. The total quantity of unwholesome foodstuffs destroyed during the year was 1,757 maunds as against 1,892 maunds in the previous year.

A large quantity of unwholesome articles was destroyed by the Inspectors, immediately on arrival at Howrah, which would otherwise have found their way into the markets in Calcutta and probably have escaped detection.

Milk supply.

226. No progress was made with the scheme for a municipal dairy farm in Calcutta in the absence of necessary legislation to give the Corporation power to carry out the scheme. The new milk block in the Sir Steuart Hogg Market, with its well equipped laboratory, is an important improvement.

Markets.

227. The four municipal markets form a valuable asset, and the total receipts amounted to Rs. 8,98,000. The arrangement for the retail sale in municipal markets of coal and soft coke for domestic use continued, but on account of the scarcity of wagons, the supplies were scanty, while very high prices ruled outside. The supply of wagons however has improved lately and the Corporation depôts are now fully stocked.

Education.

228. The value of the grants and concessions made to educational institutions of all kinds aggregated to Rs. 1,40,030 during the year. A large number of educational institution were exempted from payment of the municipal rates, and the amount of indirect aid thus given was Rs. 30,943.

Public Health.

229. The public health during the year 1920 was slightly better than in 1919, but the mortality is still considerably higher than the normal, and the death-rate amounted to 39·3 per thousand. The death rate has risen by

50 per cent. since 1908. This increase, it is presumed, is intimately connected with the outbreak of influenza in 1918 and its subsequent recrudescence, and is hoped to be only temporary. A severe epidemic of small-pox, with a heavy mortality percentage amongst children under 5 years of age, indicates the need for more stringent measures to enforce vaccination. The epidemic itself led to a great increase in vaccinations, and it is hoped that the house-to-house visitation, which the Health Officer is organizing, will lead to a permanent improvement in vaccination statistics. The death-rate among women was as usual 50 per cent. higher than among men. The total number of deaths of infants was 5,935, *i.e.*, about the same as in the previous year, but apparently owing to defective registration, the number of births registered this year was smaller and the infantile death-rate which is calculated on the total number of births was 386 per thousand as against 357·8 in the preceding year.

The mortality from influenza was less than half that of 1919, but there was no diminution in the mortality from respiratory diseases, although (it is presumed) deaths from influenza were included in that category.

Maternity and child welfare.

230. The Lady Health Visitors and midwives continue to do much useful work. The midwives delivered 2,736 cases and removed 110 complicated cases to hospital. There were only 12 deaths amongst the women who were attended by them. Excluding still-births, 2,598 babies were delivered by the Corporation midwives; of these only 114 died before the 10th day. This gives a mortality rate of 43 per thousand which compares very favourably with the general infantile mortality of 117 per thousand during the first week of life. Most of the deaths within 10 days occurred among prematurely born babies. There were only 62 deaths or 24·9 per mille among the older infants visited by the Lady Health Visitors, the corresponding general infantile mortality rate being 283·9 per mille.

Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1920-21.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust for 1919-20.]

General.

231. The after-effects of the war continued seriously to affect the progress of the work of the Trust. Want of coal hampered the manufacture of bricks, and stone-metal, lime and paving stones were obtained with difficulty and in insufficient quantities. Out of a total length of 18 miles of roads in progress, 6 miles were completed, but only 3 miles were handed over to the Calcutta Corporation.

The receipts from the duty on transfer of property and jute tax steadily increased from Rs. 12½ lakhs and Rs. 8¾ lakhs in 1919-20 to Rs. 13 lakhs and Rs. 9¾ lakhs, respectively. The Corporation's contribution amounted to Rs. 10¼ lakhs as against Rs. 9¾ lakhs in the previous year. But on the other hand, the pay of the establishment has been revised in view of the increased cost of living; the cost of materials has increased, and in view of the recent land boom, land values are no longer stable. Owing to the scarcity of house accommodation and the hardship caused by evicting householders, the Trust has decided not to carry on demolition of buildings within the area of acquisition until something is done to remedy the house shortage. This delays recoupment of expenditure on land acquisition by the sale of surplus land. The result is that much capital is locked up in land. The Trust spent Rs. 85 lakhs on land acquisition, but the total receipts from the sale of land including premia on leases, exemption fees and sale of buildings amounted to Rs. 47 lakhs only. The Trust was permitted to borrow Rs. 50 lakhs from the Bank of Bengal on collateral security.

Improvement Schemes.

232. Improvement Scheme No. VII-E in regard to which there had been much difference of opinion both inside and outside the Trust, was finally sanctioned by Government. The scheme provides for the construction of the southern section of the great north and south thoroughfare (Central Avenue) from Prinsep Street to Esplanade. Sanction was accorded to another

improvement scheme (Improvement Scheme No. XV), which was considered necessary by the Trust and the Corporation for improving the general drainage of the south of the town.

Squares and Parks.

233. Extensive areas are being acquired in Maniktala and Cossipore-Chitpur to provide open spaces to serve the central and northern portion of Calcutta. Part of the site of the Almshouse in Amherst Street was sold for the purpose of an open space. Land has been acquired for two more open spaces within the town.

Extension of the Trusts' operations to Howrah and Suburban Municipalities.

234. Though the drainage of the water-logged area in Maniktala is a matter of urgency, nothing could be done regarding the improvement of that area, as it is probable that the Trust will not be able to raise more money during the next two years than will be required to finance the projects already in progress. The extension of the Trust operations to Howrah has been deferred till the Calcutta Improvement Act is amended.

Rehousing Schemes.

235. The Calcutta Corporation transferred to the Trust the development scheme south of Shambazar Park for reinstating those displaced by the improvement schemes in the north of the town.

The four rehousing schemes mentioned in last year's report could not be finished. But there is an increasing tendency on the part of the people displaced in the centre of the town to avail themselves of what may be called the natural form of rehousing by moving to the improved area of completed schemes in the suburbs, where the Trust is able to dispose of sites which has advantages not obtainable elsewhere and where the residents are secure against any future disturbance. Land in Scheme No. V (Bhowanipore) has been reserved for sale at concession rates to persons who have lost their residences under the operations of the Trust.

The proposal of Government to assist Building Companies in acquiring land under the Land Acquisition Act for approved housing schemes has been withdrawn on account of legal difficulty.

Proposed Public Streets.

236. Six alignments of which five were in Wards Nos. XIX and XX were sanctioned restricting the erection of new buildings within such lines.

Finance.

237. The income and expenditure under the Capital Account were respectively Rs. 46,99,800 and Rs. 1,04,17,300, and those under the Revenue Account Rs. 42,80,300 and Rs. 10,57,200. The deficit in the Capital Account was, as usual, met from the Revenue Account which closed with a net balance of Rs. 53,32,600.

District Boards.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1920-1921, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

District Boards.

238. A further stage was reached in the withdrawal of official internal control over District Boards. In the preceding two years all but five District Boards secured the right of electing their own Chairmen; in the year under report this privilege was extended to the remaining five. In 20 boards the elective element was raised from one-half to two-thirds while the boards were also enlarged. The Darjeeling Road Cess Committee is giving place to a District Board on a popular basis, with three Local Boards, which are likely to possess a large measure of financial independence.

Local Boards.

239. The membership of Local Boards was increased, while three new boards were established. These bodies maintain village roads and are responsible for village sanitation, where these duties have not been transferred to Union Boards. In the Burdwan district they were also in charge of ferries and primary education; in Nadia they are also responsible for maintenance of masonary wells. There is a tendency to transfer the functions of the Local Board to the new Union Boards, and in Burdwan, we are told, that as a result of this transfer frequent meetings on the part of the Sadar Local Board proved unnecessary. The place of the Local Board, if it is not to be eliminated in the framework of the local self-government system, will be a matter of cardinal importance when the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act is undertaken.

Village Self-Government.

240. A forwarded policy in the creation of Union Boards was accepted by Government, and by the close of the year nearly 1,600 Union Boards had been formed. Few men will doubt that this movement—if it succeeds—is fraught with important issues in the political life of Bengal. There have been many failures, but some of these village committees, especially in the Dacca district, have shown vitality and energy, which are a hopeful augury of the growth of public spirit and civic responsibility. Some District Boards have taken a keen interest in the welfare of these new bodies; in Burdwan district over half a lakh was contributed towards their expenses from the district fund. The tender growth of these village committees has of late received a deplorable set back at the hands of the non-co-operator in Midnapore district where there was an organized campaign against the new Union Boards, and as Government had no desire to force these institutions on the villagers against their will orders have recently issued for the withdrawal of the Union Board system in that district. The old chaukidari panchayats have replaced them, and the clock has unfortunately been set back.

The District Boards, however, find their own resources quite inadequate for their expanding functions, and the success of the Union Boards must depend largely on their willingness to utilize their power of taxation. It is contended that the villagers cannot afford to pay taxes for the improvement of their unions, and it must be admitted that experience has not yet justified the optimism, which held that the villager was shrewd enough to pay, if he saw that he was obtaining good value for his money in the shape of improved communications and sanitation.

The number of Union Committees declined in proportion as they gave place to Union Boards, but there were still 309 Union Committees working at the end of the year. In the Presidency Division the Rajibpore Union Committee, 24-Parganas, is singled out for special praise; its record of works shows the benefits which a public-spirited Chairman can obtain for the group of villages in which he labours.

Financial results.

241. The receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 122·7 lakhs against Rs. 129 lakhs in the preceding year, the decrease being mainly due to smaller receipts under deposits and advances and miscellaneous heads. There was also a corresponding decrease in the total disbursements which fell from Rs. 130·7 lakhs to Rs. 122·7 lakhs. The excess of current income over current expenditure amounting in the previous year to Rs. 38,000 was reduced to a deficit of about Rs. 4·8 lakhs. The closing balance at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 34·8 lakhs.

Taxation.

242. The incidence of taxations averaged 2 annas 6 pies a head for the whole Presidency, and varied in different districts from 1 anna 7 pies to 6 annas 8 pies.

Education.

243. The expenditure on education rose from Rs. 26·7 lakhs to Rs. 28·5 lakhs, and excluding the contributions recieved from Government and other sources and the fees and miscellaneous receipts, the sum contributed by the District Boards from their own funds rose from Rs. 9¼ lakhs to Rs. 11·3 lakhs. The increase was mainly due to the greater attention paid by most District Boards to the expansion of primary education in rural areas. The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by District Boards rose from 37,871 to 39,078 of which 29,936 were boys' schools and 9,142 girls' schools; those actually maintained by the Boards increased from 2,909 to 3,010. Schemes for the development of primary education on the lines suggested by Mr. Biss were sanctioned for three unions in the district of Khulna, and a grant of Rs. 8,000 for capital expenditure was made by Government towards the execution of the schemes. Female education made a satisfactory stride during the year; the number of schools increased by 600 and the number of pupils by 9,000. A sub-committee of seven lady members was formed in the Khulna to advise the District Board in matters relating to the education of girls. Technical and industrial education continued to receive special attention. Two new weaving schools were started with the aid of District Board. *viz.*, one at Midnapore and the other at Tantipara in Birbhum. The District Board of Khulna also decided to open a district weaving school as an experimental measure.

Medical relief and public health.

244. The expenditure under these heads aggregated Rs. 11·7 lakhs against Rs. 10·5 lakhs of the preceding year. In nearly all districts definite programmes have been laid down for the gradual extension of dispensaries, 22 new dispensaries were established during the year, making a total of 304. Two hundred and twenty-six dispensaries were in receipt of grants-in-aid from District Boards amounting to Rs. 2·77 lakhs. No dispensaries were maintained by any of the Boards in the Chittagong Division, which, however, made grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 1·13 lakhs to 55 dispensaries. Eleven temporary dispensaries were maintained by the Burdwan District Board and three by the Birbhum District Board to combat epidemics of malaria and cholera. The opinion is gaining ground that District Boards should cut adrift from the long-accepted policy of constructing dispensary buildings of the old expensive type; the means for affording relief to the masses can be quickly multiplied if it is once admitted that buildings of the cheap type on which private dwellings in rural areas are constructed may serve as efficient centres for a medical agency. The Midnapore District Board's scheme for providing a network of dispensaries on these lines within the next ten years is commendable and steps are being taken to modify the rules under which buildings must at present be designed after a costly standard type.

In Khulna 20 anti-malarial leagues were established under the general control and guidance of the Health Officer. The members are enrolled as unpaid voluntary workers in the anti-mosquito campaign and the distribution of quinine. The subsidization of medical practitioners—initiated in Jessore —was approved in Midnapore, Howrah, Khulna and Dacca; in the Midnapore district four doctors, who each receive from the Board a subsidy of Rs. 35 per mensem *plus* Rs. 5 as house-rent, have now begun work. In the 24-Parganas subsidies of Rs. 30 per mensem were offered, but no doctors could be obtained; a similar report comes from Nadia, where subsidies of Rs. 35 per mensem were offered. In Dacca 5 doctors were obtained on subsidies of Rs. 35 per mensem; they are required to visit schools within a radius of 5 miles of their centres in order to give simple courses of instruction on personal hygiene and sanitation. In Jessore the Board has been able to withdraw its subsidies from established practitioners, but owing to the reduction of the rates of subsidies no suitable doctors were available for the new centres. The establishment of an *Ayurvedic* dispensary by this District Board attracted great interest. It is reported to have made some mark as a medical institution suitable for the treatment of chronic diseases.

The usual petty sanitary works, such as the removal of jungle, clearing roadside and village drains, filling up insanitary ditches, etc., were carried on through the agency of Local Boards, Union Boards and Union Committees.

In India the deplorable waste of life from preventable diseases is a common place, and in the Howrah Sadar subdivision a demonstration of anti-cholera measures was carried out at Government cost. The experiment is thus described by the Commissioner:—

" Six sanitary inspectors were placed in six thanas with a sub-assistant surgeon as their supervisor, while the entire operation was in charge of the Health Officer. The inspectors were provided with bleaching powder, hycol, cholera literature and cholera posters. They visited police-stations once a day and as soon as they came to know of any outbreak of cholera they proceeded at once to the spot and disinfected rooms, buildings, soiled cloths, etc., while they also gave the occupiers of the house and the neighbours necessary instructions and sterilised tanks with bleaching powder where necessary. They distributed cholera literature among the people and published posters at prominent places dealing with the causes and prevention of cholera. The inspectors tried to get information from all available sources and principally through the Presidents of Union Boards, the idea being to check the disease in the very beginning."

It is reported that since the commencement of the campaign, the death-rate from cholera has been appreciably reduced. Measures of this kind cannot, however, be at once improvised when epidemics occur; it is desirable that District Health Officers should prepare the way for such campaigns well in advance by constant anti-cholera propaganda and by dealing

promptly with small sporadic epidemics. If the efficacy of preventive measures is thus demonstrated throughout the year, it will be easier for a special staff to work on a larger scale, when more severe epidemics occur. Temporary itinerant doctors such as were employed in several parts of the Rajshahi Division, if their activities are properly organized and trained, form a useful nucleus for a special staff of this kind. It is satisfactory that District Health Officers have to some extent realized the paramount importance of simple public health propaganda at the present time. In Birbhum pamphlets containing instructions for the prevention and treatment of cholera, small-pox and influenza were distributed through the agency of the Presidents of Union Boards, and in Bankura doctors were deputed to inspect and treat pilgrim traffic from Puri.

During the year the Vaccination Act was extended to all the areas administered by the District Boards in the Burdwan Division, and the system of free vaccination was in force in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Howrah. The Health Officer, Howrah, held several magic lantern demonstrations to explain the benefits of vaccination to the masses. The Mymensingh District Board had a staff of 56 vaccinators including 4 women operators to attend to the *pardanashin*. Considerable attention was paid to vaccination in the Patuakhali subdivision, the number of persons vaccinated including those vaccinated in the preceding year was about 32 per cent. of the population.

As regards works of sanitation, it is noteworthy that the Bakarganj District Board spent no less than Rs. 52,248 in the excavation and re-excavation of khals; this work is said to have had a marked effect on the sanitation of the areas concerned.

General. 245. On the whole, there seems ground for believing that local bodies have a keen appreciation of their obligations in the matter of public health, but the inadequacy of their funds is a constant handicap. There was a general tendency amongst District Boards to concentrate their activities on the following matters :—

(1) an extension of medical relief by the creation of new dispensaries and the subsidizing of rural doctors who require aid and until they can build up a practice;
(2) the organization of preventive measures, combined with treatment, in the case of epidemics;
(3) the improvement of vaccination work; and
(4) public health propaganda, in which Health Officer should take a leading part.

It is expected that on these lines much valuable work will be done, and the question of the extent to which the State can assist the Board in these matters is under the consideration of Government.

Veterinary. 246. The charges under this head amounted to Rs. 1,36,000 against Rs. 1,12,000 of the preceding year. The veterinary assistants continued to do useful work by visiting villages affected by cattle disease and treating the cattle in villages and at hospitals. There were outbreaks of cattle diseases in the districts of Bankura, Midnapore, Bakarganj and Jessore. In Bakarganj there was a severe outbreak of rinderpest which carried off thousands of cattle and crippled the cultivators. A veterinary inspector has recently been placed in charge of this district and of the Khulna and Jessore districts by the Veterinary Department. In Nadia and Khulna veterinary committees were formed by the veterinary assistants with a view to secure co-operation in their work.

Civil works. 247. The total expenditure under this head, which includes the sums spent on water-supply and drainage, rose from Rs. 60·3 lakhs to Rs. 61·6 lakhs. The outlay on buildings and tools and plant increased by Rs. 2·5 lakhs, but that on communications and water-supply decreased by Rs. 1·6 lakhs and Rs. 1·2 lakhs, respectively. The decrease was in some cases due to scarcity of labour, but its main cause was the shortage of railway wagons which rendered it impossible to obtain either metal for the roads or coal for burning bricks. As was to be expected under these conditions there were large lapses amounting in Birbhum and 24-Parganas to nearly one-fourth of the

total allotment for civil works. The District Boards of Howrah and Khulna allowed over 19 per cent. of the allotment to lapse and four other Boards, *viz.*, Burdwan, Midnapore, Jessore and Noakhali had lapse of over 15 per cent. of the allotments. Taking the figures for the province as a whole the proportion of lapses rose from 11 to 12 per cent.

Communications.

248. The growth of water-hyacinth has increased to an alarming extent. By-laws were framed by several District Boards to secure the removal of this pest; some District Boards served notices on persons requiring them to remove the weed from their tanks or ponds, but the notices proved ineffective. A resolution was therefore passed by the District Board Conference of 1921 to the effect that Government should undertake legislation at once for the eradication of this nuisance in consultation with the Government of Assam. It is understood that the Assam Government is not at present prepared to take measures chargeable to provincial revenues; in Bengal a committee has been appointed to advise Government on this matter.

Particular attention was paid by the District Board of Hooghly to the prevention of encroachment on roads. About 114 encroachment cases were reported by subordinate officers; in each case the encroachment was removed.

Water-supply.

249. The total expenditure amounted to about Rs. 5·8 lakhs, of which Rs. 5 lakhs were spent on original works. Taking the Presidency as a whole the percentage of the Public Works Cess receipts spent on water-supply fell from 20 to 16·7 per cent., the decrease being most marked in Nadia, 24-Parganas, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Noakhali and Bogra. On the other hand, there was a marked improvement in the districts of Bankura, Tippera, Hooghly, Murshidabad and Chittagong: in the two districts first named, the percentage was more than 24 per cent. against 9·4 and 8·4, respectively, in the previous year. In Midnapore, where also the percentage showed a slight increase, the District Board allowed a large allotment to lapse mainly through the dilatory execution of works and delay in determining the rates at which labour should be paid. Tanks started in this district in 1919-20 remained unfinished even at the end of the year under review.

As in the preceding year, the whole of the amount spent on water-supply was met from current revenue, and the reports do not show that any District Board has considered seriously the suggestion made last year that capital works of this kind should be financed from loans.

Drainage.

250. The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 1·4 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·1 lakhs represented the expenditure incurred on account of the Jaboona project in Nadia and Arool bil scheme in Jessore. The Nowi-Sunthi and the Jaboona projects were taken up by the District Board of the 24-Parganas. All these projects are under execution by the Public Works Department of Government. In other districts drainage works were confined chiefly to clearing roadside drains, re-excavating and deepening khals and the construction of bridges and culverts.

Relief works.

251. The expenditure fell from Rs. 1,65,000 to Rs. 7,200, of which Rs. 3,000 was spent by the Khulna District Board and the balance by the Noakhali District Board. No other District Boards had to undertake relief measures, a fact which indicates the absence of famine conditions in the province during the year. There were heavy flood in Midnapore, particularly in the Tamluk subdivision, which rendered many people homeless and caused acute distress. The District Board co-operated in the measures undertaken to relieve the distress.

Closing balance.

252. The actual closing balances decreased from Rs. 23·27 lakhs to Rs. 17·67 lakhs. Although the Burdwan District Board succeeded in reducing its balance by Rs. 1·75 lakhs, it closed the year with a balance of Rs. 2·64 lakhs for nearly half of which the Asansol Local Board was responsible. This is attributed to the difficulty of getting materials and also to the abnormal rise in the wages of labour. The accumulation of Rs. 2·62 lakhs in the case of the 24-Parganas is chiefly accounted for by the large unspent balances of the Government grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for the Nowi-Sunthi drainage scheme and of Rs. 59,041 for the improvement of the Jaboona river. The Rajshahi District Board reduced its balance by Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 17,766 and the balance in Chittagong decreased from Rs. 84,894 to the unduly low figure of Rs. 569.

The Tippera, Faridpur and Dacca District Boards closed the year with debit balances of Rs. 16,221, Rs. 9,172 and Rs. 5,888, respectively, indicating overdrawals on the District Funds. In Faridpur and Dacca this was due to an overestimate of the cess receipts and might have been avoided had the District Boards revised their budgets a few months before the close of the year. The heavy fall in Tippera from the credit balance of Rs. 1,08,000 at the end of the previous year has not been explained. On the other hand, the balances rose to more than a lakh in Bakarganj and Khulna. In the former the rise was due to an unexpected increase in the cess receipts for the expenditure of which there was no budget provision, while in the latter district it was due partly to the receipt of a special Government grant of Rs. 15,000 for educational purpose and partly to heavy lapses under " Civil Works " and " Medical." In Midnapore and Howrah the balances were also heavy amounting in each case to nearly Rs. 1·5 lakhs. No explanation has been given in the case of Howrah, but in Midnapore there were heavy savings under " Civil Works."

General Remarks.

253. While the heavy balances indicate defective budgetting or the dilatory execution of work, the universal cry of District Boards is the inadequacy of their revenues for their expanding functions. Labour and materials are more expensive, while the creation of Union Boards has placed a new charge on the District Fund. Important schemes have been drawn up for the expansion of primary education, extension of water-supply, adoption of a comprehensive public health policy, improvement of communication, etc., but the financial difficulty has to many Boards appeared insuperable. The adoption of a loan policy will in some cases be possible, but an expansion of revenue is also necessary, and it is difficult to devise taxation, which will sufficiently augment the resources of the District Boards without proving oppressive to the tax-payers. This question was discussed at the Conference of the representatives of District Boards held in December 1919. The Conference was opposed to any increase in the cess, but approved a proposal to levy a tax on carts, carriages and horses in rural areas. This proposal has recently been revised, and enquiries are being made as to the approximate revenue such a tax might yield and the method of its assessment and collection.

Apart from finance, the work of the District Boards, many of which were under non-official Chairmen, was on the whole satisfactory; most of the non-official Chairmen showed great interest in their important duties, and there is no doubt that the District Boards have considerable vitality and are beginning to open up a field of useful public service to many of the ablest men in the mufassal. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division observes:—

" The general impression left on my mind after inspecting the District Board offices is that with the passing of the official Chairmen who worked in one groove, there has been an improvement in the variety of projects undertaken for the good of the people. The work of the Board is more attractive to members, and each non-official Chairman is conscientiously doing his best with the time at his command in the matter of touring."

Marine Department.

(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1920-21.
(2) Ditto ditto Chittagong, 1920-21.
(3) Annual Report of the Shipping Offices in Bengal, 1920-21.
(4) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 1920-21.
(5) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission, 1920.
(6) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1920-21.
(7) Ditto ditto Chittagong, 1920-21.
(8) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam Boiler Commission, 1920.
(9) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge, 1919-20.

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Bengal Pilot Service.

254. At the end of the year 1920-21 there were 68 pilots including leadsmen Apprentices on the list, against the sanctioned strength of 74. Six leadsmen Apprentices were appointed during the year and one Branch pilot

retired. The system of the guaranteed minimum remuneration of pilots was continued during the year.

255. The number of vessels piloted inwards was 1,469 with a gross tonnage of 6,534,597 and outwards 1,423 with a gross tonnage of 6,292,653 against 1,124 and 1,102 with gross tonnage 4,788,616 and 4,687,463, respectively, in the previous year. Twenty-four vessels were detained at the Sandheads for want of pilots; none was detained in the preceding year. The detention was due to a large number of ships arriving at a time when the port was abnormally congested. **Vessels piloted.**

256. The receipts from pilotage fees were Rs. 13,79,343. The figures were Rs. 10,80,472 in 1919-1920 and Rs. 10,42,874 in 1918-1919. **Pilotage receipts.**

257. Groundings and collisions numbered 26 and two, respectively, against 35 and eight during 1919-20. One vessel was lost subsequent to her grounding. **Casualties to vessels.**

258. Seventy-two preliminary enquiries were held by the Port Officer to investigate casualties to both sea-going and inland vessels against 88 in the previous year, and 16 of these cases were referred to Special Courts of Enquiry, the same number as last year. **Courts of Enquiry.**

259. Sixty-three candidates out of 152 passed the examinations for Master, Mate or Engineer and were granted Colonial or Home Trade certificates of competency. One hundred and forty-seven candidates out of 578 obtained certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer or Engine Driver under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917. Five candidates appeared for the examination for the grant of licenses to pilot steam-tugs, Port Commissioners' vessels and vessels plying between Calcutta and Chandbally, and three passed. **Examinations.**

PORT OF CHITTAGONG

260. The total number of vessels that entered the Port was 826 of which 235 were sea-going vessels, 552 inland steamers and 39 native sailing ships. The corresponding figures for out-going vessels were 819, 233, 551 and 33. The gross tonnage was 623,771 inwards and 629,237 outwards. In the previous year the number of arrivals was 842 with a total gross tonnage of 489,664, the number of departures being 835 with a total gross tonnage of 476,049. **Arrival and departure of vessels.**

261. There were two casualties to vessels, the same number as in the previous year. One resulted in total loss and the other was a case of grounding. No Marine Court of Enquiry was held. **Casualties to vessels.**

262. One hundred and eighty-nine candidates sat for the examinations for Masters, Serangs, Engineers or Engine Driver's certificate of competency under the Inland Steam Vessels Act I of 1917, out of whom 136 passed. **Examinations.**

SHIPPING OFFICES, CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

263. The revenue of the Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 1,38,080 and the expenditure to Rs. 99,754 against Rs. 1,26,938 and Rs. 84,438, respectively, in the preceding year. **Finance.**

264. The table below will show the number of seamen shipped and discharged during the year under report and the preceding year:— **Seamen shipped and discharged.**

Articles.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped—				
European	575	576	1	...
Indian	44,466	42,261	...	2,205
Total ...	45,041	42,832	1	2,205
Discharged—				
European	1,005	885	...	120
Indian	34,232	40,038	5,806	...
Total ...	35,237	40,923	5,806	120

CHITTAGONG SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance.

265. The revenue of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 845 and expenditure to Rs. 780 against Rs. 1,040 and Rs. 659, respectively, in the previous year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

266. The number of seamen of all nationalities shipped and discharged during the year under report was 181 and 629, respectively, against 148 and 755 in the previous year.

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

Finance.

267. The total receipts of the Agency for the year were Rs. 6,73,616 and the expenditure Rs. 6,52,438 against Rs. 10,10,645 and Rs. 9,43,226, respectively, in the previous year.

Tonnage.

268. The tonnage dealt with was 32,482 including 420,035 packages, against 62,966 including 1,099,846 packages in the previous year.

The total value of the freight bills passed by the Agency was Rs. 4,81,716 against Rs. 6,72, 256 in 1919-20.

BENGAL SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION.

Meetings of the Commission.

269. In July 1920 the Smoke Nuisances Commission Department passed under the control of the Director of Industries, Bengal, and consistently with the annual reports for other Departments under this officer, the Smoke Nuisances Commission's report this year ends with the calendar year and therefore covers only nine months, *i.e.*, from April to December. During this period the Commission held nine meetings.

Inspections and observations.

270. The number of observations of smoke emission taken was 7,514 and the number of factories visited for instruction, etc., was 1,995.

The average of the observed emission of smoke of scales 6, 5 and 4 in terms of scale 6 has been reduced to 1·22 minutes in the hour from 1·23. Fifty-six plans of installations were examined, altered as necessary and approved and subsequent construction supervised. Some of these installations were highly satisfactory in all respects.

Prosecution.

271. The number of complaints received from the general public was 48 and the public are now appreciating the relief that usually follows such complaints. Statutory warnings were served in 15 cases this year as against 16 in the previous year. There was only one prosecution.

THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

General features of administration.

272. The year under review completed the 50th year of the life of the Trust and was marked by an important change in the administration of the Port by the passing of an Amending Act authorising the appointment of a whole-time salaried Chairman in place of part-time Chairman who was the chief executive officer of the Trust.

Income.

273. The total income amounted to Rs. 2,66,08,032 during the year under review against Rs. 2,23,55,614, the actuals of the preceding year. The income of the year is the highest attained in the history of the Trust.

Expenditure.

274. The expenditure on Revenue Account amounted to Rs. 2,51,61,205 against Rs. 2,25,51,875, the actual expenditure for the previous year.

At the close of the year, the value of the total block of the Trust amounted to Rs. 12·10 crores in addition to Rs. 3·28 crores, spent on works in progress, a total of Rs. 15·38 crores, against which the Trust's liabilities amounted to Rs. 10·42 crores.

The following table shows the Income and Expenditure of the Calcutta Port Trust during the year 1920-21 together with the figures of the previous year.

	1920-21.				1919-20.				Difference between nett balance of 1920-21 and 1919-20	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett expenditure.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	24,931	17,37,143	...	17,12,212	30,132	12,71,288	...	12,41,156	...	4,71,056
II.—Jetties	66,63,439	21,31,121	45,32,318	...	25,83,016	13,25,994	12,57,022	...	32,75,296	...
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	3,37,251	2,21,540	1,15,711	...	4,83,045	1,70,457	3,12,588	...	...	1,36,877
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	5,23,070	58,082	4,64,988	...	4,65,938	38,664	4,27,274	...	37,714	...
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves	4,35,479	2,91,113	1,44,366	...	4,56,732	2,21,299	2,35,433	...	...	91,067
VI.—Rentable Lands and Buildings.	23,24,085	1,99,205	21,24,880	...	10,01,680	1,96,875	8,04,805	...	13,20,075	...
VII.—Port	8,83,550	13,07,245	...	4,23,695	4,94,135	11,18,095	...	6,23,960	2,00,265	...
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	7,64,596	14,52,222	...	6,87,626	6,08,098	12,25,162	...	6,17,064	...	70,562
IX.—Railway	22,21,477	21,00,805	1,20,672	...	19,33,589	19,00,732	32,857	...	87,815	...
X.—Wet Docks	64,34,769	51,86,848	12,47,921	...	48,13,546	40,75,008	7,38,538	...	5,09,383	...
XI.—Dry Docks	4,65,186	1,37,787	3,27,399	...	3,03,108	98,676	2,04,432	...	1,22,967	...
XII.—Ferry Service	5,99,246	5,92,206	7,040	...	5,09,626	4,62,371	47,255	...	...	40,215
XIII.—River dues	44,66,762	...	44,66,762	...	17,87,568	...	17,87,568	...	26,79,194	...
XIV.—Special War Surcharges	...	...	...	...	64,66,809	...	64,66,809	...	...	64,66,809
Miscellaneous	3,056	...	3,056	...	...	...	...	...	3,056	...
Sale of unserviceable materials	15,259	...	15,259	...	82,220	...	82,220	...	...	66,961
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	25,762	...	25,762	...	27,531	...	27,531	...	...	1,769
Interest on Revenue Reserve	81,679	...	81,679	...	81,679	...	81,679	...	...	...
Haulage charges	91,561	...	91,561	...	30,743	...	30,743	...	60,818	...
Difference on exchange ...	...	2,26,213	...	2,26,213	1,96,419	...	1,96,419	...	...	4,22,632
Interest on deposits ...	1,86,874	...	1,86,874	...	...	...	...	...	1,86,874	...
Interest and Sinking Fund charges.	...	62,60,366	...	62,60,366	...	60,90,557	...	60,90,557	...	1,69,809
Contribution to Vessels Replacement Fund.	...	5,00,000	...	5,00,000	...	5,00,000	...	5,00,000	...	...
Depreciation of securities of Revenue Reserve Fund.	...	1,52,807	...	1,52,807	...	1,46,205	...	1,46,205	...	6,602
Depreciation of securities of Vessel Replacement Fund.	...	27,525	...	27,525	...	1,75,400	...	1,75,400	1,47,875	...
Depreciation of securities of Fire Insurance Fund.	...	69,113	...	69,113	...	50,749	...	50,749	...	18,364
Reserve Fund for depreciation of securities of Provident Fund.	...	7,702	...	7,702	...	7,240	...	7,240	...	462
War bonus	...	2,162	...	2,162	...	3,91,458	...	3,91,458	3,89,296	...
Appropriation to meet depreciation of Sinking Fund Investment.	...	25,00,000	...	25,00,000	..	30,85,645	...	30,85,645	5,85,645	...
Total ...	2,66,08,032	2,51,61,205	1,40,16,248	1,25,69,421	2,23,55,614	2,25,51,875	1,27,33,173	1,29,29,434	96,06,273	79,63,185

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Income. 275. The ordinary receipts of the Port Fund during the year under review amounted to Rs. 4,41,646 (exclusive of the assignment from the Burmah Coast Light Dues Fund which stood at Rs. 20,208) as against Rs. 5,41,713 in the previous year. The decrease in income was due to the reduction in the rate of river dues and fall in jute trade.

Expenditure. 276. The ordinary expenditure of the Port Fund for the year amounted to Rs. 9,36,726 against Rs. 6,51,538 in the previous year. The increase was due to the high cost of stores and repairs and to revision of establishment, as well as to the purchase of two steam launches.

Assets and Liabilities. 277. The value of the Port Commissioners' properties, as estimated on the 31st March 1921 stands at Rs. 49,93,071 and liabilities at Rs. 1,54,147. The mooring and unmooring fees were reduced to their pre-war level.

Dredging Report. 278. The dredger "Karnafuli I" worked at the Double Moorings, the Inner and Outer Bars for 165 days dredging 752,625 cubic feet.

Trade. 279. The total value of foreign and coasting seaborne trade was Rs. 7,85,26,000 against Rs. 10,82,96,000 in the previous year.

Sanitation. 280. The general health of the Port during the year was good.

BENGAL STEAM BOILER COMMISSION.

Inspection of boilers. 281. Like the report of the Smoke Nuisances Commission, the report of the Bengal Steam Boiler Commission is prepared for the calendar year instead of for the financial year and the present report covers the period from April to December 1920.

The Commission held nine ordinary and one special meeting for the transaction of business during the period under review. The total number of boilers on the register for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commission was 6,245. Altogether 4,151 boilers were inspected. One hundred and fifty-four boilers were struck off the boiler registers as they had not been presented for survey for over four consecutive years or had been removed out of jurisdiction or condemned as unfit for further service.

Receipts and expenditure.

282. The total receipts and expenditure were Rs. 87,010 and Rs. 1,14,700, the excess of expenditure being due to the revision in salaries of the inspecting staff and the appointment of a whole-time Chief Inspector.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Revenue Account.

283. The year began with a deficit on Revenue Account of Rs. 2,82,899.

Receipts and expenditure.

284. The income and expenditure of the Bridge during the year amounted to Rs. 4,16,265 and Rs. 3,60,875 against Rs. 3,91,254 and Rs. 3,51,994, respectively, in the previous year. The year ended with closing deficit of Rs. 2,27,509 on Revenue Account.

The number of accidents during the year was 16 as compared with 37, 35, 39 and 17 in the preceding four years.

The Bridge was opened during the year on 317 occasions of which 52 were day openings and 265 were night openings.

Some progress was made towards the settlement of the question of the construction of a new bridge.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1920-21.]

Administration.

285. The principal change in the administration of the Department of Agriculture during the year under review was the transfer of control from the Revenue Department of the old Government to the Ministry of Agriculture and Public Works under the Reformed Government.

For the first three months of the year, Mr. R. S. Finlow officiated as Director of Agriculture in addition to his own duties as Fibre Expert. He was relieved on the 5th July 1920 by Mr. G. Evans, C.I.E., who was selected by Government to succeed Mr. Milligan as the permanent Director. A new post of second Economic Botanist was sanctioned during the year, and Mr. D. Dutta, Superintendent of Agriculture, was appointed to officiate in it. There were three Deputy Directors of Agriculture for the five civil divisions. The necessity of having a Deputy Director for each division has been recognised for some time past, and the sanction of the Secretary of State to the creation of two new posts of Deputy Director has been obtained since the close of the year.

Agricultural education.

286. There were 42 students from Bengal at the Agricultural College at Sabour, of whom 18 appeared in the final examination and 11 passed. Five students received scholarships from Government and seven from district boards. The first batch of students at the Agricultural Vernacular School at Dacca completed their course in December 1921. A school of the same type was opened at Chinsura in February 1921, but only 12 students were on the roll at the close of the year. The paucity of pupils is attributed to the non-co-operation movement. The object of Government in opening these schools was to provide a practical education in modern agricultural methods for the sons of cultivators who would apply what they learned in the cultivation of their own holdings. Experience has now shown that these schools are not altogether suitable. The principal drawback is that they are much too costly. If agricultural education is to spread among the masses, it is essential that the schools should be within easy reach of the cultivators. Numerous schools, each serving a comparatively limited area, must therefore be established, and this can only be accomplished if a cheap type of school is devised. The schools at Dacca and Chinsura have, therefore, been converted into secondary agricultural schools since the close of the year. *Gurus* and demonstrators and also cultivators desiring a higher agricultural education will be trained in these schools. A scheme for a cheaper type of schools for elementary agricultural education is now engaging the attention of Government.

An area of 300 acres has been acquired adjacent to the Dacca Agricultural Farm for the Agricultural Institute. The scheme has received the administrative sanction of Government, and building operations will commence as soon as funds are available.

Research and experiment.

287. The research work at the department is divided into the Fibres, Botanical and Chemical sections. In the Fibres section, Mr. Finlow continues to devote most of his time to jute, though flax, hemp and other fibres have also received attention. The success of the *kakya Bombai* variety of jute is well-known. But two new races, R 85 and D 154, are expected to

prove superior to *kakya Bombai* as they give a somewhat better yield and are immune from the attacks of *chlorosis*. This disease is now being investigated by the Fibre Expert, in collaboration with the Economic Botanist. The Botanical section is testing three new varieties of *aman* paddy and is investigating the problem of early paddies for the high lands of Bankura and Birbhum. Cotton is also receiving attention, but experience has shown that long-staple cotton as a rains crop is not likely to be a commercial success in Bengal. Experiments with cold weather cotton will be initiated this year. In the Chemical section, work on the soil survey of the province has had to be curtailed owing to shortage of staff, but the analysis of soils from the new Government farms has been carried out, and very important work in connection with tobacco has been started. This includes an investigation into the manuring of the crop and a study of the various methods of curing and fermenting the leaf.

There was a considerable increase of public interest in agricultural matters and in the work of the department. An indication of this is the remarkable demand for departmental seed. In the Dacca Division, for instance, applications were received for 5,000 maunds of *kakya Bombai* jute seed against an available supply of 800 maunds. There was also a keen demand for seed of the *kataktara* and *indrasail* varieties of paddy. It is obvious that the seed which the district farms will be able to supply will be quite insufficient to meet the needs of the cultivators. The Director has, therefore, drawn up a scheme for ultilising private agencies for the propagation and distribution of departmental seed. The central experimental stations will supply seed to the district farms. These in turn will distribute it to private farms established through the agency of zamindars, khas mahals, Court of Wards' estates and co-operative agricultural associations. The seed will be propagated for a further period in these farms before distribution to the cultivators. Satisfactory progress in the organisation of these private farms has already been made.

Many varieties of sugarcane from all parts of the world have been tested, and the *yellow tanna* variety, which has proved itself pre-eminently adapted to the conditions of Bengal, has achieved a wide popularity. Every effort is being made to increase the supply of seed of this variety to meet the large demand which exists. Tobacco is also an important item in the demonstration programme, and the cultivation of the Sumatra variety has been rapidly extended in Rangpur. Other crops which are receiving attention include groundnuts, wheat and potatoes, and the use of manures is also being popularized by the demonstrations of the department.

Experimental and district farms.

288. There are at present nine Government farms, *viz.*, Experimental Farms at Dacca, Chinsura and Rajshahi, a Tobacco Farm at Burirhat and a Cattle Farm at Rangpur, each in charge of a Farm Superintendent and District Farms at Rangpur, Mymensingh, Comilla and Bogra in charge of the agricultural officers of the district. There are also three private farms at Burdwan, Gosaba (24-Parganas) and Kalimpong under the management of the department. Land has been or is about to be acquired for new farms at Barisal, Pabna, Suri, Bankura, Faridpur, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri and Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Buildings at Barisal have been completed and farm work will soon commence. The construction work at Pabna is nearing completion and work on the farm has been started. Construction work on other farms will be taken up when funds permit. The programme for 1921-22 includes a farm for each of the districts of 24-Parganas, Chittagong and Dinajpur. Sites for these have been selected and preliminaries are being arranged. The department is seriously handicapped at present in its experimental work by having only two central experimental stations at Dacca and Chinsura. It is, therefore, considered desirable that there should be such a station in each division at which experimental work of a high order can be conducted.

Agricultural associations.

289. During the year considerable attention was paid to the formation of village agricultural associations, and their rapid expansion affords further evidence of the increase of popular interest in the work of the department. In order to secure the permanence of these associations, and to give

each member a personal interest in their success, which has been decided that they should in future be organised as far as possible on a co-operative basis. Associations or small groups of associations will be registered as co-operative agricultural societies under the Co-operative Societies Act, and share capital will be raised. These societies will not only engage in such activities as the supply of seed and manure to members, but will also be in a position to undertake the more complicated forms of agricultural improvement such as irrigation and drainage projects and the joint purchase and sale of agricultural machinery.

290. The cattle-breeding experiments on the Rangpur Cattle Farm continued to make progress. The herd is divided into two sections. In the one selected local cows breed from a Hissar bull, and in the other from the best local bulls available. The milk yield of each cow is carefully recorded, and those which give a poor yield are eliminated from the herd. Several generations will have to be bred before definite results can be expected, but the half-bred Hissar bulls are at present showing distinct signs of improvement over the local animals. Cattle breading.

291. In the Sericultural branch of the department which continued to do important work, three new appointments, *viz.*, the Deputy Director of Sericulture the Second Superintendent of Sericulture and the Sericultural Research Expert were created. The demand for seed cocoons greatly exceeded the supply. Owing to a shortage of the mulberry crop which was affected by drought and to an accidental outbreak of muscardine at one of the nurseries. the total receipts from the nurseries amounted only to Rs. 77,286 as against Rs. 84,185 in the previous year. In spite of this, it is estimated that the department supplied 29 per cent. of the total seed requirements of the province. The increasing demand for sericultural education is an indication that the cultivators appreciate the value of the work that is being done by the department. Sericulture.

Industries.

[Report of the Department of Industries, Bengal, for the year ending 31st December 1920.]

292. From the 1st January 1920, a permanent Department of Industries was sanctioned for Bengal, and Dr. D. B. Meek, who had held the temporary post combined with that of the Controller of Munitions, Bengal, was appointed to be permanent Director. The separation of the work of the Director of Industries from that of the Controller of Munitions was gradually effected during the year under report. Administration.

293. To assist the Director in the discharge of his duties, an Advisory Board of twelve members, mostly business men with wide experience of the industries of the province, has been appointed and has already proved of great value to the Director. The staff of the department is being gradually organized. Towards the end of 1920, Mr. A. T. Weston was appointed Deputy Director of Industries. Five Circle Officers, one for each of the Commissioners' Divisions, have also been appointed. The Circle Officer acts as the local representative of the Director and is the channel of communication between the people and the department. He is entrusted with the collection and dissemination of intelligence relating to the general industrial conditions of his circle. He receives requests for assistance from the industrial public, makes enquiries and prepares and submits definite schemes to the Director. He is required to be in close touch with the industrial exhibitions promoted within his circle, and it is in contemplation to entrust him with the work of inspecting Industrial and Technical Institutions. For the expert supervision of these institutions, the Director has the assistance of Mr. W. H. Everett as Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions. An Industrial Intelligence Officer has also been appointed, but his time has been almost entirely occupied with the study of labour problems, and in particular with the collection of information relating to strikes. Since the close of the year Government have sanctioned the appointment of an Industrial Engineer and Organisation.

an Industrial Chemist. These officers were urgently needed and their appointment will greatly increase the utility of the department to the public.

Research Tannery.

294. Industrial research work was seriously hampered by the absence of an expert staff. The Calcutta Research Tannery, however, made considerable progress in its work. It carried on investigations both into raw materials and into tanning methods. A systematic analysis of leathers tanned at the Research Tannery was made with a view to improving its quality. An analytical survey of the water used in various tanneries throughout India was also carried out in order to compare their technical properties. Investigations into the manufacture of sole leather of superior quality from local buffalo hides and tan stuffs were carried on and definite results have been obtained. The leathers turned out have been recognised by the local trade as of good quality and they fetched satisfactory prices at the auctions by which they were disposed of. To disseminate modern scientific processes of tanning among the village *chamars*, demonstrations were arranged in various industrial exhibitions and pamphlets on the subject were distributed. An important development was the appointment of apprentices to receive a training in the Research Tannery. One apprentice who has already finished his training has obtained an appointment as an assistant in a tannery near Calcutta.

Weaving.

295. Much attention has been given to the subject of weaving. The Weaving Expert, who had previously worked under the charge of the Director of Agriculture, was transferred to the administrative control of the Director of Industries from the 1st December 1919. Owing to the demand from all parts of Bengal for the revival of the hand-spinning of cotton with a view to its adoption as a cottage industry, special attention was given to the introduction of improved *charkas* and to the demonstration of the manipulatory processes amongst the spinners. The attention of the department has also been devoted to the introduction of improved hand-looms and weaving machinery. Improvements have been made in the fly-shuttle slay, the fly-shuttle loom and the pit loom. These improvements have been widely demonstrated throughout the province and have met with an encouraging reception.

Technical and industrial education.

296. The transfer of the control of technical and industrial education from the Director of Public Instruction to the Department of Industries was effected towards the end of 1920. Up to the present, the Director of Public Instruction has retained control of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, and of the Asanulla School of Engineering, Dacca; but all other technical and industrial institutions in the province have been placed under the Director of Industries, and the transfer of these two institutions to his charge is now under the consideration of Government.

Cottage industries.

297. Owing to the paucity of staff, the assistance which the department was able to render to cottage industries was practically confined to the introduction of improved spinning and weaving appliances. With the appointment of Circle Officers the Director of Industries will be in close touch with the cottage industries of the province, and will in future be able to render them assistance in other directions. The Government of Bengal attach great importance to the spread of co-operative institutions among the cottage workers of the province and arrangements have been made by which the Director of Industries will work in close co-operation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in this matter.

Fisheries.

[Report of the Department of Fisheries, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending 31st March 1921.]

Fisheries.

298. On the inauguration of the Reformed Government the administrative control of the Fisheries Department in Bengal was transferred from the Revenue Department to the Ministry of Agriculture and Public Works.

The depletion of superior staff reported in the previous year continued during the year under review and consequently the work of the department was seriously handicapped and no important project for development could be undertaken. Pending the appointment of a permanent Director of Fisheries the control of the department has been temporarily placed under the Director of Agriculture with effect from the beginning of the year under report.

Another factor which has affected the department was the decision of the Government of Bihar and Orissa to discontinue, with effect from 1st April 1921, the arrangement for the joint control of the Fisheries Deparment for the provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. This led to an examination of the whole question of the retention and reorganisation of the Bengal Fisheries Department. The department has only been in existence for ten years, the staff even when at full strength is small, and it cannot as yet point to important practical achievements. It has therefore not succeeded so far in enlisting the support of public opinion. The reason for this is not far to seek. The work of the department falls into two main branches, research and demonstration, and research must necessarily precede demonstration. Up to the present the officers of the department have been largely engaged in research. It is in the stage of propaganda and demonstration that the results of the researches of the department will become known to the public and be appreciated by them. In Bengal where fish forms an important part of the diet of the people an efficient department of fisheries has great possibilities before it, and in course of time will undoubtedly accomplish work of the greatest practical value to the people. This view has led Government to decide on the retention of the Fishery Department with its former staff of one Director and two Superintendents, and the Secretary of State has been moved to sanction the post of a Director.

Carp.

299. The absence of a permanent Director and the want of laboratory accommodation hampered scientific work during the year under report. Definite results have however been obtained in carp cultural experiments. Not only have the carp been observed to breed in confined waters under certain special conditions, but it has also been found possible to fertilize the eggs artificially by stripping the male and the female. The question of establishing a carp-rearing station has been postponed pending the recruitment of a Director. Interesting results which may lead to important developments were also obtained from inquiries into the possibility of cultivating mussels in confined waters.

Hilsa investigations have not made much headway and it is clear that prolonged enquiries and investigations will be necessary before a solution of the problem of *hilsa* culture is attained.

Fishermen's Co-operative Societies.

300. The District Fishery Officers worked satisfactorily during the year. A survey of Government and private fisheries was undertaken in the districts where these officers have been appointed, and much useful information has been gathered which will prove of practical value in the future. A special study of the economic condition of the fisherman was also made and as a result particular attention was directed to the establishment of fishermen's schools and co-operative societies. Twenty-six new fishermen's co-operative societies were registered—16 in Bengal and 10 in Bihar and Orissa. The total number of such societies in Bengal at the lose of the year was 47 as against 32 in the previous year. Experiments in the education of fishermen's children were carried on in the Dacca district and net-making and boat-repairing have been introduced experimentally in the curriculum of the Rohitpur School.

During the carp season of the year under review the total number of selected fry supplied to the public by the department was 517,000 against 880,500 in 1919-20. The falling-off was due to the uncertain nature of the monsoon which interfered with the distribution of fry.

The statistics of fish traffic into Calcutta during the year under review show imports of 370,119 maunds as compared with 312,975 maunds in the

preceding year. This is the largest quantity imported since the collection of statistics was inaugurated in the year 1916-17.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1920-21 ; Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1920-21 ; Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the season.

301. The early part of March was too wet in Eastern and Northern Bengal; April and May, on the other hand, proved to be too dry for Western Bengal. As a result the sowings of autumn crops, which commenced at the usual time finished late, operations being delayed a good deal all through these months. In June and July moderate rainfall improved the growth of autumn crops as well as of deep water paddy, but proved insufficient for the transplanted paddy, especially on high lands. The deficiency during these months was, however, made up by the abundant rainfall in August and in early part of September when a large area was put under transplanted paddy. Scarcity of water for retting jute, which was felt at the beginning, was also removed by these timely rains. Heavy rainfall in September and October caused water-logging in certain tracts of North and East Bengal damaging lowland paddy to a certain extent. A period of drought followed till the end of the year to the detriment of the spring crops which had already suffered from excessive rainfall at the time of sowing. Winter rain, although, on the whole too late, to some extent benefited the late sown crops. The season may be regarded as satisfactory for the rice crops and only fair for other crops.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1920-21 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year :—

NAME OF HARVEST.		Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1919-20 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1920-21 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year.	
					1919-20.	1920-21.
Bhadoi	... ...	8,881,200	8,528,500	8,336,400	85	86
Aghani	Winter rice	17,377,500	15,606,100	15,343,800	90	90
	Sugarcane	245,900	217,900	218,800	89	88
	Other sugar producing plants.	59,000	56,300	56,100	...	...
Rabi	... ...	5,495,800	4,391,500	4,081,900	82	81
	Total ...	32,059,400	28,800,300	28,037,000	...	...

Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

302. The weather was generally favourable for sowings in the eastern and northern districts, but in some western districts weather conditions were less satisfactory. During the early period of growth, lack of soil moisture was felt in a few districts, but good rainfall later on generally improved the situation. Just at the time of harvesting the crops suffered in most districts of Eastern and Northern Bengal from excessive rainfall and floods and the outturn was thereby affected adversely. In West Bengal no appreciable damage was done except by floods in Midnapur and a good outturn was reaped in these tracts. On the whole, the season was favourable in Western Bengal and generally fair in the rest of the province. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops of the province was returned at 86 per cent. of the normal as against 85 per cent. reported in 1919.

303. The outstanding feature of the season was the uneven distribution of the rainfall already noticed throughout the Presidency both at the time of sowing and during the period of growth. Consequently sowings, which began at the usual time, finished very late. For these reasons the early sown crop was affected to such an extent in many places that a large area had to be resown later. Good weather conditions, however, prevailed during June. This helped for a time the growth of the crop and enabled further sowings to be made in parts of Western Bengal. A weak monsoon over the greater part of the province during July and August had an injurious effect on the crop which flowered prematurely and consequently became stunted in growth. Good rain in August saved the *deshi* crop in Western Bengal. A lack of sufficient water for retting was also felt at first, but this difficulty was removed by the abundant rainfall at the beginning of September. The season, on the whole, was not favourable to the crop. The total outturn is returned at 5,247,363 bales of 400 lbs. against 7,567,832 bales last year—a decrease of 2,320,469 bales. **Jute.**

304. The rainfall in February and March was sufficient for the preparatory tillage for broadcast paddy. Consequently adequate moisture was left in the soil, and sowing operations proceeded satisfactorily, especially in the eastern districts during the months of April and May when a full area was sown with this variety. In portions of West Bengal, however, sowing finished as late as June. Defective rainfall in June and July hampered transplanting, especially in the high lands of the northern and western districts, but this was accelerated by the good rainfall received in August and in the early part of September. Heavy rainfall in September and October resulting in floods, however, damaged the crop to some extent in certain low lands of North and East Bengal, but, on the other hand, this was highly beneficial to the late transplanted paddy. On the whole, the season was good for the broadcast and fair for the transplanted crops. The provincial outturn is estimated at 90 per cent. of the normal against the same estimate last year. **Winter rice.**

305. The weather was generally favourable in East Bengal, while drought from the months of April to the first part of June somewhat affected the growth in parts of North and West Bengal. Subsequently favourable weather prevailed, and the prospects in those tracts considerably improved. Some damage was caused by heavy rain and flood in parts of Midnapore, Hooghly and Jalpaiguri. On the whole, the season was favourable for the crop. The outturn for the province worked out at 88 per cent. of the normal against 89 per cent. last year. **Sugarcane.**

306. Excessive rainfall during the months of September and October retarded preparatory operations. *Rabi* sowings were, in consequence, generally late. Subsequently, prolonged drought adversely affected the growth and caused damage in many parts of the western and northern districts. The rainfall during the latter part of January and in February, though somewhat late, generally improved the prospects of the late sown crops, especially those of summer paddy, but heavy rain in the beginning of March, accompanied by hailstorms in some eastern and northern districts, damaged the early crops which were nearly ready for harvest. On the whole, the season was fair for the early crops and satisfactory for the late crops. The outturn of the different spring crops for the province as a whole was 81 per cent. of the normal against 82 per cent. last year. **Rabi crops.**

307. The weather was generally unfavourable for the early crop throughout, especially during the months of September and October, when excessive rainfall considerably affected the outturn. The late crops, on the other hand, fared well up to the first part of October, but subsequently drought affected what would otherwise have been a good crop. The total outturn of cotton (both early and late) exclusive of Tripura State, was estimated at 19,580 bales this year against 21,085 bales in 1919. **Cotton.**

Area under cultivation.

308. The total cropped area was returned at 28,037,000 acres against 28,800,300 acres for the previous year. The figures for the principal crops are shown in the following table :—

Name of crops.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1919-20 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1920-21 in acres.
Rice	22,904,500	20,940,000	20,883,800
Other food-grains, including pulses and *marua*.	2,238,600	1,636,300	1,557,600
Jute	2,420,800	2,458,900	2,169,200
Oilseeds	1,709,000	1,475,700	1,235,000
Tobacco	337,500	342,500	258,100
Sugarcane ...	245,900	217,900	218,800

Prices.

309. During the first half of the year the prices of food-grains, especially those of rice, continued to rise, but owing to satisfactory harvests and to reduction in export they began to fall during the latter half of the year. Prices were, however, still much higher than pre-war level. Owing to the slump in the jute market and to the large carry-over from the previous year's crop which remained unsold, the price of this commodity was unusually low. As the market did not improve during the course of the year, prices showed a further tendency to decline. The prices of winter rice (common) at the time of harvesting varied from Rs. $5\frac{5}{16}$ per maund at Bogra to Rs. $7\frac{5}{8}$ per maund at Rangpur, and those of autumn rice from Rs. 4 per maund at Malda to Rs. 9 per maund at Darjeeling and Mymensingh.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1920-21.]

Administration.

310. Mr. Thorp, the Deputy Registrar, officiated as Registrar until the return from leave of Mr. Donovan, the permantnt Registrar, in November 1920. Mr. Donovan relinquished charge of his office of Registrar since the close of the year. During the year the Secretary of State sanctioned the appointment of an Assistant Registrar for each division. Four of these have already been appointed and the fifth will be appointed as soon as funds are available. Proposals for the reorganisation of the department and for placing it on a permanent footing were submitted to Government towards the close of the year and are now under consideration.

Development.

311. The total number of societies increased from 5,408 at the beginning of the year to 6,366 at its close. The progress has not been so great as in the previous year when the number of societies increased by 1,152. There was a persistent demand for new societies, but the Registrar, recognising the need for caution in regard to new commitments, found it necessary to limit the rate of expansion. In the two years ending 30th June 1921, the total increase in the number of societies has been 50 per cent. Neither of these years could be classed as prosperous, and the second was a year of grave trade depression, financial difficulties and serious political and economic disturbances. The total working capital of the societies has risen from Rs. 2,82,00,000 to Rs. 3,33,00,000. Of this sum the societies and their members provide over 40 per cent. Thus, while the capital employed is steadily increasing, the proportion contributed from outside sources is decreasing year by year. The number of members in the societies has risen from 217,175 to 242,085 in the year under report. The increase in the number of societies is thus 17·7 per cent. and in the working capital 17·9 per cent., while the increase in the number of members is only 11·4 per cent. The number of fresh cases of liquidation was 63, or about 1 per cent. of the total number of societies in existence.

Provincial Bank.

312. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Federation is in a very satisfactory position. Although its rates are sometimes less and never more than the rates offered by Government and public bodies, it received from the public

fresh deposits of over five lakhs of rupees during the year under report, compared to less than one lakh of rupees in the previous year. It has followed a careful and cautious policy and this has enabled it to retain the confidence of depositors.

313. Central Banks have increased in number from 64 to 71, and their working capital rose from Rs. 1,04,04,895 to Rs. 1,21,22,554. About two lakhs of this, however, is a fictitious increase being the amount due to the Faridpur Central Bank by the Nurpur Central Bank. The actual increase in capital is thus about 15 lakhs. There was a considerable falling off in collections during the year under report. This was due to the unsatisfactory agricultural conditions and the economic depression of the year. As a result provincial and central banks were compelled to exercise the greatest caution in regard to new commitments, and the amount issued in fresh loans fell from 56·45 lakhs to 44·13 lakhs. The loans and deposits received by central banks also showed a slight decrease. This was due not to any weakening of public confidence but to a general shortage of money and the competitive rates offered by other borrowers. The total liquid resources of the central banks at the close of the year were 9;78 lakhs and the Registrar points out that this is a very low cover for deposits of Rs. 42,00,000 maturing in the following twelve months. Of these 42 lakhs, however, 24 lakhs are held by central banks from the Provincial Co-operative Federation. Taking the Federation and the Central Banks together, more than 50 per cent. of the deposits received from the public which mature in the next twelve months are covered by liquid resources. **Central Banks.**

314. The number of agricultural societies increased from 4,977 at the close of 1919-20 to 5,850 at the end of the year under review. During the year the membership increased from 157,159 to 171,833 and the working capital from Rs. 1,11,12,366 to Rs. 1,28,26,310. Agricultural credit societies constitute about 90 per cent. of the total number, and their working capital amounted to Rs. 1,22,62,000 as compared to Rs. 1,04,08,000 in 1919-20. The share capital paid up in these societies rose during the year from 1·53 to 3·02 lakhs, and deposits by members increased from 5·76 to 6·27 lakhs. **Agricultural societies.**

There are now eleven agricultural purchase and sale societies as compared with seven in the previous year. On the whole, these societies have shown satisfactory progress. Their growth is in no way forced. The Co-operative Department are well aware of the general incapacity of cultivators to manage the business affairs of these societies, and they do not too readily encourage their organisation. In spite of this, cultivators have insisted on making an attempt in different districts. This development proves that these cultivators no longer regard co-operation as an easy means of getting cheap loans, but understand and appreciate the true principles of the co-operative movement. The Khepupara Supply and Sale Society has been a conspicuous success. It now serves nearly 3,000 families and is rapidly expanding its business. It has recently erected, at a cost of Rs. 18,000, a godown capable of storing 40,000 maunds of paddy which will enable the members, who have hitherto been forced to sell their produce at a sacrifice for want of storage room, to wait for a favourable market. The co-operative store at Naogaon is another successful institution. Its business is rapidly developing and it has now two shops in the town of Naogaon; it has also started a printing press which is executing orders for co-operative societies in every part of the province. The milk societies in the Barasat subdivision unfortunately received a serious setback owing to circumstances which might have been avoided by timely action. When the situation was realized prompt measures were taken to retrieve the situation and the crisis is now past. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society also passed through a severe crisis during the year. An attempt to spread the non-co-operation movement in the area completely failed, but internal dissensions for which the agitators were to some extent responsible, considerably hampered the development of its work. By the end of the year, however, these differences were composed, and there is every reason to hope that this society will now continue its former prosperous career.

Non-agricultural Societies.

315. The number of non-agricultural societies increased from 360 in the previous year to 438 in the year under report. Of these 148 are credit societies with a working capital of Rs. 55,82,000. Taken as a whole, the returns of these societies are most satisfactory. The Calcutta Credit Societies, 33 in number, are a sound financial group and afford great assistance to 23,000 middle class employees in Calcutta offices. An interesting feature of the Chittagong group of societies is the fact that punctuality in repayment is encouraged by allowing a rebate of interest on loans repaid on the due date, whereas in other districts penalties are imposed for unpunctuality.

The number of non-agricultural supply and sale societies has risen from 18 to 90 in two years. This large increase was due to economic causes. High prices and profiteering induced people of the middle classes to attempt co-operative distribution. It was found, however, that many of these societies were working on wrong lines. The true spirit of co-operation was absent; members were disloyal, credit was too freely given and reckless attempts were made to undersell the market. A halt was therefore called in the organisation of new societies, and the officers of the department devoted their attention to the improvement of existing societies. Some improvement has already been effected, but many of the societies are so bad that the only course is to close them.

The number of Weavers' Societies has increased to 117, but it is only in Bankura that anything like an outstanding success has been achieved. Owing to the prevailing economic conditions, the turn-over of the Bankura Industrial Co-operative Union was considerably smaller than in the preceding year, but in other respects the union made distinct progress. The societies have improved, and bad workers and bad societies have been replaced by good workers and good societies. The quality of the work has greatly improved, and cloth is now woven at Bankura which the weavers could not have attempted to make two or three years ago. Financially, too, the union is much stronger. The paid-up share capital exceeds Rs. 10,000 and nearly half of it belongs to the weavers themselves.

The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.

316. The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, which is doing useful work as a central bureau of information and advice on co-operative matters, devoted particular attention to the solution of problems peculiar to Calcutta. As a result of the activities of its Housing Committee, the organization of a co-operative housing society has now become a matter of practical politics. The Stores Sub-Committee is engaged in an attempt to organize co-operative coal supply in Calcutta.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1920-21.]

The Royal Botanic Garden. General.

317. The garden suffered from drought during the latter part of the year under report, but towards the end some welcome storms of rain restored the balance. The cold weather display of annuals in the flower garden was up to the usual standard, but the show of orchids about the beginning of the hot weather was poor. The decay of the central part of the Great Banian Tree which commenced in 1903-04 reached a dangerous stage and a considerable section had to be removed. Only a small number of additions were made to the out-door collections of living plants, about a dozen of which were new to the garden. The garden roads being built of hard-burnt brick-metal are not fit to withstand motor traffic which has consequently done much damage to the roads. Otherwise the general appearance of the garden has been satisfactory.

Plants and seed distribution.

318. Nearly 49,000 plants and shrubs were distributed and over 2,150 plants were received. Of seed 1,677 packages and 291 lbs., including 128 lbs. to New Delhi, were distributed within and outside India and 338 packets in addition to the usual consignments of mahogany seed were received from Kew.

319. Work was carried in the Herbarium with the aid of the Botanical Survey Department. Owing to the paucity of staff, there was no time for research work. About 4,000 specimens were added to the collection and distribution was made to a limited extent. Library work was carried out as usual. Herbarium and library.

320. No publication was issued during the year. Volume XII, Part II, of the Annals is in course of distribution. Publications.

321. The withdrawal of restrictions as to employment and rate of pay of labourers has removed to some extent the labour troubles in these gardens. In addition to routine work, the Eden Gardens' ride was entirely re-levelled and re-grassed. Calcutta gardens.

322. The work of this garden was carried out on the usual lines. Lloyd Botanic Garden.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1920-21.]

323. The total area under a full complement of cinchona on the Mungpoo and Munsong Plantations was 3,236 acres, as compared with 3,080 acres in 1919-20. The approximate number of cinchona trees is 5,400,000. The total harvest was 501,018 lbs. of dry bark. During the year the cultural conditions of both plantations were satisfactory. Plantations.

324. Six hundred and seventeen thousand and eighteen lbs. of mixed plantation barks comprised of 216,106 lbs. of Mungpoo and 400,912 lbs. of Munsong bark, were worked up in the Quinine Factory against 484,245 lbs. in 1919-20, excluding the quantity of Java bark extracted for the Government of India. In addition, 10,600 lbs. of bark from Java for the Government of India were also worked up during the year. The quantity of quinine sulphate produced, including the products of the bark purchased in Java amounted to 2,463,975 lbs. against 4,772,725 lbs. in the previous year. In addition, 386 lbs. of quinine hydrochloride and 1,082,250 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were also manufactured. Outturn.

The total provincial quinine reserve stood at 39,831 lbs. 14 oz. at the end of the year 1920-21. This was 10,524 lbs. 13 oz. less than the balance at the close of the year 1919-20. The value of the stock of all sorts on the 31st March 1921 was Rs. 13,11,392-2-0, of which quinine sulphate worth Rs. 11,94,956 formed the chief item.

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1920-21 ; Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

325. The administrative year of the Forest Department which formerly ran from July to June has been changed so as to synchronise with the financial year. The report for the year, therefore, gives facts and figures for nine months only, *i.e.*, from July 1920 to March 1921. Administration.

There was only a small change in the area of the reserved forests under the Forest Department, due chiefly to disforestation of certain areas to find land for the cultivators displaced by the development of Kalimpong as a hill station, and disforestation of three square miles of protected forest in the Sunderbans. Revised working plans for 46 square miles in the Darjeeling Division and for the forests of Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions were sanctioned during the year, and considerable progress was made in the preparation of working plans for the forests of Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar.

326. One hundred and five miles of bridle paths were constructed during the year. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 25,426 against Rs. 21,038 and on new buildings and repairs to Rs. 1,03,083 Communications and buildings.

against Rs. 49,254 in the previous year. Of the total expenditure on buildings a sum of Rs. 40,000 was spent on the purchase of a new bungalow for the Divisional Forest Officer in Darjeeling; the rest of the expenditure was made up of small items spent on the construction of head-quarters houses, rest-houses, houses for subordinate establishment and other buildings. Most divisions shown an increase in this respect specially those in the Chittagong District.

Forest offences.

327. The number of forest offences was similar to that of the last year. A large number of the offences detected were compounded.

Protection from fire.

328. The area in which fire protection was attempted comprised 424,194 acres against 400,272 acres in the previous year, and the percentage of successful protection was 98·7 against 99·4 in 1919-20. The cost of protection was Rs. 3-7-0 per square mile. The area burnt over amounted to 5,406 acres against 2,540 acres in the previous year. Protection from fire was not so successful as in the previous year; the number of fires was greatest in the Buxa Division, and it was due to the inefficient protective burning of the *khair* and *sissoo* forests in the Haldibari Range and partly to the lawlessness on the part of some of the garden coolies in Borojhor Range.

Protection from cattle.

329. The area open to grazing was 4,823 square miles against 4,826 square miles in the preceding year. The number of cattle impounded for illicit grazing was 3,147 as compared with 5,057 in the previous year.

Exploitation.

330. With the cessation of demands from the Munition Board, departmental operations were restricted to the extraction of timber required for the supply of sleepers to railways and for roads, buildings and bridges constructed departmentally. The small semi-portable saw mill which was under erection was not ready to start work during the year; the mill has commenced work since. The Buxa Timber and Trading Company, which commenced work in 1920, paid no royalty on the timber felled during 1920-21. Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., the Managing Agents of the India Paper Pulp Company, who commenced working out bamboos in 1919-20, for paper pulp from the Kasalong Reserve Forest in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, also paid no royalty on the bamboos extracted. Royalty will be payable by the companies from the 1st July 1921 and 1st January 1922, respectively. Excluding the value of elephants, which are included in the term "minor forest produce" the value of such produce during the nine months was Rs. 2,97,468 as compared with Rs. 4,13,772 for the previous twelve months. The two most important items are bamboos and *galpatta*. The extraction of bamboo is increasing, but the outturn of *galpatta* is less.

Fifty elephants were caught by the departmental kheddah operations. The value of the elephants captured was Rs. 1,18,612 as compared with Rs. 84,707 of the preceding year. The increase is due to the higher prices realized, as the number of elephants sold was 53 in 1919-20 and 47 in 1920-21. The joint elephant mahal, in which the Bhutan Durbar and the Forest Department shared, was more successful than last year; the mahal was managed by the officers of the Forest Department.

The operations in Cox's Bazar Division were less successful. The elephants captured were sold for Rs. 78,235 but the profit was less than Rs. 10,000 against Rs. 21,069 in the preceding year. The reasons for this comparative want of success were an unfortunate accident during a drive which compelled Mr. Marchant, the Divisional Forest Officer in charge of the operations, to go to hospital, and the failure of some of the principal workers, in the absence of Mr. Marchant, to construct a stockade in the place selected by him, which necessitated further expenditure on another stockade.

The total value of the year's sale amounted to Rs. 14,39,933 against Rs. 16,11,644 during the preceding year. The value of the timber sold in these two years was Rs. 10,43,137 and Rs. 10,83,982. The value of the forest produce removed at privileged rates was Rs. 70,299 against Rs. 93,774 in 1919-20. Produce given free of royalty was worth Rs. 38,808 against Rs. 63,430 in the preceding year.

The specimens of timber sent to the Empire Timber Exhibition were favourably spoken of.

Mortality caused by wild animals.

331. The number of persons reported to have been killed by tigers in the Sundarbans was 18, against 12 in the preceding year, and 51, the average for the past five years. The number of tigers killed in the Sundarbans was 38 against 32 in the preceding year.

General.

332. The depletion in the controlling staff was partially made good by the appointment of three Assistant Conservators of Forests during the year.

Financial results.

333. The financial results were on the whole satisfactory. The total revenue was Rs. 17,50,592 against Rs. 20,02,819 in the preceding year. Expenditure also increased from Rs. 10,55,224 in 1919 to Rs. 10,79,011. No decrease in the gross revenue is to be feared, for the revenue derived from timber and other produce removed by Government agency in the nine months almost equals that of the preceding twelve, whilst the revenue from the produce removed by consumers or purchasers in the nine months is more than proportionate. On the expenditure side, a comparative increase in the cost of extraction of produce and of establishment reflects the general rise in wages and salaries. A large part of the increased expenditure, however, is due to more money being spent on productive items, such as live-stock, stores, tools and plant, communications and buildings, expenditure on which is essential if the resources of the forests are developed, and is all the more necesssary because the exigencies of the war prevented adequate expenditure on these items in recent years.

Manufacture and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I—Industries.]

Jute.

334. Owing to low prices and unfavourable weather conditions the area under jute decreased to 2,169,202 acres or by about 12 per cent. and the estimated outturn to 5,247,363 bales or by 30 per cent. as compared with the year 1919-1920. During the year under report there were 74 jute mills at work employing on an average 285,881 operatives daily—an increase of 8,488 over those of the previous year. The number of looms and spindles at work in the jute mills were 41,292 and 863,339, respectively, as against 40,676 and 846,487, respectively, in 1919. The authorised capital employed in rupees and sterling was Rs. 15,63,76,000 and £2,325,000, respectively.

Cotton.

335. Twelve cotton mills were at work employing on an average of 12,696 persons daily as against 12,221 persons in 1919. The number of looms and spindles was 2,467 and 343,542, respectively, as compared with 2,345 and 345,137 in the year 1919. The authorised capital employed was Rs. 2,07,00,000.

Tea.

336. The area under tea in 1920 was 172,500 acres as against 17,200 acres in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 71,696,567 lbs. as compared with 99,505,454 lbs. in 1919. The number of plantations totalled 316 employing on an average 147,275 permanent and 3,733 temporary hands daily.

Silk.

337. There were 18 silk mills and some smaller establishments which employed about 6,000 and 12,000 persons, respectively. About 19,698 *kahons* of disease-free seed cocoons were distributed from the Government nurseries.

Sugar.

338. The acreage under sugar crops increased from 274,200 to 274,900 in 1920-21. The Cossipur Sugar Works, which is the only regular sugar factory in the province, employed on an average 761 persons daily. Besides this factory there were 11 smaller sugar concerns at work in the 24-Parganas district, two in Calcutta, and 14 in Jessore which gave employment to 479 persons daily.

Coal.

339. Two hundred and forty mines, regulated by Indian Mine Act, 1901, were worked in Bengal during the year 1920 as compared with 216 in the preceding year, the daily average number of persons employed being 43,782 as against 48,642 in 1919. There was an acute scarcity of labour in the Bengal coalfields and raisings of coal were consequently low, the total output during the year 1920 amounting to only 4,207,452 tons or 1,570,180 tons less than that of the previous year. Shortage of wagons accentuated the deficiency. Prices for all kinds of coal rose very considerably towards the end of the year.

Iron-ore.

340. No iron-ore was raised during the year 1920-21.

Salt and saltpetre.

341. In consequence of increased demands for export the quantity of refined saltpetre produced during the year rose to 9,587 maunds from 6,984 maunds in the previous year. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement was 780 maunds as compared with 275 maunds in 1919-20.

Paper.

342. There were three paper mills at work during the year 1920-21 employing on an average 4,658 persons daily. These mills produced 23,852 tons of paper valued at Rs. 1,91,20,286 during the year.

Wool.

343. Two woollen factories were at work during the year 1920-21, employing on an average 340 persons daily. The number of looms and spindles was 32 and 2,108, respectively. These mills produced 436,930 lbs. of blankets valued approximately at Rs. 5,16,520. One of these woollen mills is a Government concern, *viz.*, the Dacca Jail.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

Burdwan.

344. The Asansol district is the focus of the principal steel and iron metallurgical industries of the province and is rapidly developing. The Bengal Iron Company's works at Kulti have improved their plant and consolidated the expansions made during the war period. The large iron and steel works of the Indian Iron and Steel Company at Hirapur are approaching completion at an early date, and the adjacent large factory of the Indian Standard Wagon Company has commenced operations on a limited scale. The Kirtynand Iron and Steel Works have completed the installation of their equipment and will shortly be turning out iron and steel castings. The coal mining industry has experienced considerable prosperity which would have been unprecedented but for difficulties of transportation and labour. The silk weaving industry has lost ground, but cotton weaving has shown marked vitality owing to favourable sentimental and market conditions.

Presidency.

345. The after-effect of war was still perceptible in all the industrial activities during the year. The world shortage of sugar led to the flotation of several sugar companies. The date sugar refining in Jessore was found to be a paying business, in spite of its primitive methods. Attention has been paid to the preparation of several new chemicals such as thymol, bichromates, caffeine and antiseptics. Up-to-date methods in the manufacture of soap on a large scale have been introduced. The new glass works have partially met the demand for phials and lamp chimneys, though the products still admit of much improvement. Several engineering firms have successfully manufactured ordinary machine tools and electric fans and switches, and in the hardware line the endeavours to manufacture iron safes, locks, weights, buckets, rain water pipes, etc., may be said to be quite successful. Hand spinning has been revived, but its economic value has yet to be demonstrated. The impetus recently given to handloom weaving will benefit the cottage workers. The manufacture of newar tape of cotton and rope from hemp and cocoanut fibre has developed, and a steady market for hand embroidery work has been created.

Dacca.

346. Narayanganj and Madaripur are the principal seats of the jute baling industry in the Dacca industrial circle. There were 25, 7 and 2 jute presses during the year 1920, in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Faridpur employing 7,411, 1,565 and 535 persons, respectively. There is a steam oil mill a little outside the town, a workshop and iron foundry in

the city and the railway workshops which on an average employ about 453 persons daily in all. Dacca is an important centre for the weaving industry. The handlooms industry has developed considerably, and the weavers have generally appreciated the good results obtainable from the up-to-date methods of weaving and the use of the improved appliances. The manufacture of " artistic " cloth, such as muslins and embroideries, was maintained. The year was not, however, favourable with the manufacturers of *kasida* cloth who have great difficulty in disposing of their stock for want of regular markets. The markets to which the goods were exported previously have, as a result of the war, remained closed. Dacca is the principal centre of conch shell industry. There are about 100 families of *shankharies* (conch shell dealers) at Shakharibazar. About 700 people, including children, earn their bread by this industry. An increase in the demand for the articles made of conch shell as the result of the non-co-operation movement gave an impetus to the conch shell industry at Dacca, but the margin of profits to the actual manufacturers did not increase in proportion to the volume of business as the prices of shells rose considerably. The Narayanganj Button Manufacturing Company is being organised on new lines, and several improvements in the manufacturing processes have been introduced. The Gobinda Match Factory at Narayanganj has made a good start. The supply of suitable wood for the match sticks is still a serious handicap to the industry. There was no appreciable change in the condition of the cottage workers engaged in the manufacture of buttons and combs from mother of pearls and horns. Boat building is an important industry and *bajras* or green boats are constructed at Dacca.

Chittagong.

347. The wooden sailings shipbuilding industry at Chittagong has felt the slump in freight and trade generally. Only one brig of 1,000 tons burden was launched during the year. To improve the design of the Indian shipbuilding, a model ship was constructed at Government expense. Several limited companies for oil pressing and rice hulling were floated in Tippera, Noakhali and Barisal. Factories for the manufacture of umbrella handles from bamboo and for hosiery were started in Chittagong, Tippera and Bakarganj districts. Tanning and curing of hides and the weaving in handlooms developed in Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera, and several weaving factories were started in those districts. The Pioneer Match Factory at Comilla has made good progress, and the machines invented by Dr. Nandi have a ready sale in the market. Rope-making in Chittagong, gunny weaving in Bakarganj, *hooka*, basket and button-making in Tippera, *sital pati* and bamboo matting in Chittagong and Tippera are the cottage industries of some importance and stability, and there were no appreciable change in these industries during the year under report. Brassware industry in Chittagong and Tippera is not in a flourishing condition.

Rajshahi.

348. Cotton hand weaving expanded considerably during the year owing to the abnormal rise in the price of foreign goods and as a result the use of fly shuttle looms was largely extended. The silk weaving industry was much handicapped owing to the rise in the price of raw silk. The number of silk rearers increased in the districts of Rajshahi and Malda owing to the rise in the market price of raw cocoons. The hosiery manufacturers of Pabna improved their position. The rice mills were much handicapped due to the shortage of wagons for coal, and some of them had to stop work for want of coal. There was no appreciable change in the condition of brass and bell-metal workers.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in 1920 ; Statistics of British India, Part I—Industries.]

Number of factories.

349. The total number of factories at the close of the year 1920 was 680, including 82 new factories brought under the scope of the Act, as compared

with 614 and 57 factories, respectively, in the year 1919. The daily average number of operatives employed during the year was 464,713 or 18,172 more than the previous year. The increase was chiefly in jute mills, shipbuilding and general engineering works and railway workshops, while the Royal Mint and the arms and ammunition factories reduced the number of their operatives during the year.

System of work.

350. In 72 factories work was carried on by means of shifts and in 270 with stoppages after intervals of six hours; 132 factories were exempted under Part C, Schedule I of the Act, and in 193 factories other arrangements were made. Thirteen factories remained closed during the year.

Inspection.

351. The total number of factories inspected by Factory Inspectors during the year was 313. Twenty factories were inspected more than three times, 21 thrice, 80 twice and 192 once.

Sanitary and housing arrangements, water-supply, etc.

352. The sanitary arrangements in the larger factories continued to improve. New septic tank installations have been erected in 11 large factories, while new or additional installations were under construction in seven others. The hand service latrines provided in most of the smaller factories are often found in an insanitary condition, and only frequent inspections will improve matters in this respect. On the whole, the arrangements for ventilation provided in the factories were suitable, and the supply of drinking water was generally sufficient. Employers continued to devote attention and money towards improving the housing accommodation of their workers, and in eight factories new cooly lines were built or were in course of construction during the year.

General health of operatives.

353. The general health of factory operatives was satisfactory. Outbreaks of malaria and influenza occurred in a few mills in the month of August, causing, however, only a temporary shortage of labour in the mills concerned.

Wages and General condition.

354. During the year the wages of all factory operatives both in textile and non-textile factories were further increased, making the aggregate increase about 50 per cent. over pre-war rates. The general condition of the operatives was satisfactory.

Employment of women and children.

355. The number of women and children employed during the year showed an increase of over 2,400 compared with those employed in the previous year and was due principally to the increased number employed in jute mills. The number of children certified during the year was 25,081 compared with 21,757 in 1919.

Prosecutions.

356. Nineteen prosecutions were instituted under the Act during the year, of which 17 resulted in convictions, one case was withdrawn, and in the other the occupier and manager of the factory were acquitted.

In five charges for illegal employment of children convictions were obtained, fines being imposed ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 255.

Accidents.

357. The total number of accidents was 1,441 or 303 more than in the previous year, but was only 0·31 per cent. of the aggregate number of persons employed, the lowest percentage since the new Factories Act came into operation in 1912, with the exception of the year 1919.

Strikes.

358. Labour unrest in most of the large industrial areas was the most prominent feature of the year under review. Practically all industries have been affected by strikes, the workers in most cases demanding higher wages to meet the increased cost of living due to post-war conditions. In the majority of cases the demands were favourably considered and appreciable increases were granted. A number of strikes due to political agitation or in which unreasonable demands were made ended in the men returning to work unconditionally.

Fires.

359. A few cases of fire occurred during the year, the most serious being that in the Keshoram Cotton Mills at Garden Reach in which the Spinning Department building was completely burned down.

Trade.

[1. Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1920-21.
2. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency.
3. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with [the British Empire and Foreign countries.
4. Annual Statement of Coasting trade and Navigation of British India.
5. Statistics of British India, Volume I—Commercial Statistics.
6. Review of the Trade of India, 1920-21.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1920-21.]

Total trade. (Merchandise, private and Government.)

360. In the year under review the aggregate value of the trade of the Bengal Presidency, both foreign and coasting increased from Rs. 269 crores to Rs. 274 crores, or nearly 2 per cent. The value of the foreign trade increased by Rs. 4 crores or 2 per cent. from Rs. 231 crores to Rs. 235 crores and that of the coasting trade by Rs. 84 lakhs to Rs. 38 crores. The foreign import trade advanced by 35 per cent. to Rs. 122 crores, while the exports declined by nearly Rs. 28 crores or 20 per cent. from Rs. 141 crores to Rs. 112 crores. Calcutta, as usual, absorbed more than 98 per cent. of the total foreign trade of Bengal, the balance going to Chittagong.

Merchandise, private.

361. The following table shows the extent to which the foreign trade in private merchandise of the province is centred in the chief port of Calcutta:—

Imports and exports of merchandise (private) in 1920-21.

	Province. (In thousands.)	Calcutta. (In thousands.)	Chittagong and its sub-ports. (In thousands.)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports ...	11,98,150	11,87,039	11,111
Exports ...	11,12,608	10,83,016	29,592

Treasure.

362. The imports of gold, both on private and on Government account, were valued at Rs. 83 lakhs against 10 crores in 1919-20 and those of silver at Rs. 40 lakhs against Rs. 17 crores in the preceding year. The exports of gold and silver exceeded imports and amounted to Rs. 180 lakhs and Rs. 151 lakhs, respectively.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

363. The following table shows the comparative importance of the principal articles in the import trade of Calcutta :—

—	Average value for the 5 years 1909-1910 to 1913-1914.	Average value for the 5 years 1914-1915 to 1918-1919.	1919-1920.	1920-1921.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.	Difference between 1919-1920 and 1920-1921.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1. Cotton goods	24,50,83,600	23,41,65,534	28,21,29,876	37,11,56,761	31·27	8,90,26,885	...
2. Metals and ores	6,73,94,372	5,61,18,068	10,61,51,546	16,61,84,506	14·00	6,00,32,960	...
3. Machinery and millwork	2,15,13,063	2,18,49,587	5,08,17,902	10,37,77,866	8·74	5,29,59,964	...
4. Sugar	5,66,56,858	6,65,35,377	11,02,99,099	6,82,50,454	5·75	...	4,20,48,645
5. Railway plant and rolling stock.	2,09,41,005	1,35,60,440	2,48,62,664	6,57,14,675	5·54	4,08,52,011	...
6. Motor cars and motor cycles and parts thereof.	32,94,344	38,95,236	1,41,78,362	4,90,68,555	4·13	3,48,90,193	...
7. Oils	1,67,74,610	1,93,18,552	3,62,41,776	4,03,05,882	3·40	40,64,106	...
8. Hardware, excluding cutlery and electro-plated ware.	1,13,85,712	1,11,35,247	1,70,70,665	3,12,36,031	2·63	1,41,65,366	...
9. Instruments, apparatus and appliances.	57,54,378	68,11,145	1,04,82,543	2,38,50,563	2·01	1,33,68,020	...

	Average value for the 5 years 1909-1910 to 1913-1914.	Average value for the 5 years 1914-1915 to 1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.	Difference between 1919-1920 and 1920-1921. Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
10. Paper and paste-board ...	35,29,023	60,13,840	70,43,298	2,32,50,599	1·96	1,62,07,304	...
11. Salt	59,68,637	1,41,83,967	1,78,87,037	1,78,49,111	1·50	...	37,926
12. Liquors, including methylated and perfumed spirits.	63,26,815	76,33,279	1,04,57,307	1,35,99,779	1·15	31,42,472	...
13. Articles imported by post	27,94,746	42,42,061	67,56,950	1,34,01,396	1·14	66,44,446	...
14. Chemicals and chemical preparations.	37,55,093	74,62,195	75,62,191	1,16,08,857	·99	40,46,666	...
15. Provisions and oilman's stores.	58,28,180	65,60,309	1,00,55,224	1,13,70,147	·96	13,14,923	...
16. Rubber	8,33,107	42,36,095	77,33,523	1,03,98,287	·88	26,64,764	...
17. Tobacco	27,45,291	45,41,756	62,48,508	1,03,82,539	·88	41,34,031	...
18. Glass and glassware ...	51,10,431	46,72,505	64,13,428	1,01,79,923	·86	37,66,495	...
19. Building and engineering materials.	28,00,475	42,73,767	57,28,392	93,13,765	·79	35,85,373	...
20. Woollen goods	76,40,562	32,91,860	23,61,672	89,65,943	·76	66,04,271	...
21. Tea-chests, entire or in sections.	33,64,246	69,78,637	57,45,368	81,02,998	·68	23,57,740	...
22. Spices	65,40,348	76,96,438	94,08,472	79,75,023	·67	...	14,33,449
23. Drugs and medicines (excluding chemical and narcotics).	37,16,417	44,40,657	58,41,880	77,32,150	·65	18,90,270	...

The important articles of imports are separately dealt with in the subjoined paragraphs :—

Cotton manufactures.

364. Imports of cotton piece-goods showed an advance from 585 to 636 million yards, but were still less than half the average before the war. There was a decline in the quantity of grey goods, while the receipts of coloured and printed materials improved considerably. The United Kingdom, as usual, dominated the market in all the varieties, contributing 90 per cent. of the grey, 98 per cent. of the white, and 91 per cent. of the coloured and printed goods. Japan sent 38 million yards of grey and nearly 6 million yards of coloured cloths. Italy also supplied 2 million yards of coloured goods. The average value of grey goods was 6 annas 11 pies as against 6 annas 6 pies in 1919-20 and 2 annas 6 pies per yard in the pre-war year. Imports of hosiery advanced in value from Rs. 93½ lakhs to Rs. 109 lakhs, of which Rs. 89 lakhs were credited to Japan and Rs. 10 lakhs to the United States, which countries were able to compete successfully with British products in the superior grades.

Imports of twist and yarn were above the pre-war level, owing chiefly to a great recovery in imports from Japan which suffered much in 1919-20. Imports of British yarn also improved. The largest increase was in grey yarn, of which 31 to 40 counts covered nearly 5 million lbs. Owing to improved steamship facilities, imports of Indian yarn and piece-goods by sea mostly from Bombay were more than doubled, the total value being Rs. 6½ crores.

Metals and manufactures thereof.

365. Imports of metals showed a remarkable recovery in quantity from 230,400 tons in 1919-20 to 355,900 tons in 1920-21. The quantity of the imports of iron and steel (wrought) exceeded the pre-war average, while the value of these imports was more than two and half times as high. The principal features were the large quantities of bars, rods, angles and of beams and pillars imported, which might be attributed partly to recent industrial developments and partly to activity in building. Imports of galvanised sheets and plates were less than in 1919-20, but there was an increase in the quantity of other sheets and plates imported. Of other metals, there was a great advance in the imports of brass manufactures, while there was a decline in lead sheets for tea chests.

Machinery and millwork.

366. The total value of the imports of machinery and millwork amounted to over Rs. 10 crores, being more than twice that of the previous year's figures. The largest single item was jute mill machinery which reached a total of Rs. 261 lakhs. After this the principal increases were under the heads, electrical machinery which reached a total value of Rs. 132 lakhs,

prime movers Rs. 95 lakhs, boilers Rs. 79 lakhs, metal working machinery Rs. 75 lakhs, and machinery for workshops and foundries Rs. 42 lakhs. Considerable advances were also recorded under the heads, agricultural machinery, coal mining machinery, machinery for paper mills, rice and flour mills, saw mills, cotton mills, etc. Of the total imports 81 per cent. came from the United Kingdom and 18 per cent. from the United States.

Sugar.

367. Imports of refined sugar declined by 124,000 tons to 86,000 tons. Imports from Java declined from 202,000 tons in 1919-20 to 83,000 tons in 1920-21. There was also a decline in the imports from Mauritius by 5,400 tons to 2,900 tons. The imports from other countries were negligible. Four-fifths of the imports of Java sugar were of 23 Dutch Standard or over; and the local market value for this quality rose from Rs. 38 per cwt. in April to Rs. 53 in July; prices then fell to Rs. 27½ in December after which they recovered to Rs. 37 at the end of the year. Twenty-three thousand and seven hundred tons of foreign sugar were reshipped mainly to the United States and Greece. The imports of molasses (almost entirely from Java) increased to 90,400 tons from 56,480 tons in 1919-20.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

368. Imports on private account increased from Rs. 249 lakhs to Rs. 657 lakhs, but at the same time Government importations declined from Rs. 335 lakhs to Rs. 108 lakhs. The chief item was carriages and wagons with a total value of Rs. 377 lakhs, both on private and Government account. The large importations from the United States recorded in the previous year did not continue, and the United Kingdom supplied 95 per cent. of the total imports.

Mineral oil.

369. Imports of mineral oil from foreign countries and Burma amounted to 110 million gallons or an advance of more than 7 million gallons over the preceding year. This increase was due to larger imports from Burma, which amounted to practically half the total. Imports from foreign countries of Kerosine oil fell by nearly 30 per cent. to 26½ million gallons; most of this decline was in the imports from the Straits Settlements and Borneo. The coastwise imports from Burma were, on the other hand, almost on the level of the preceding year. Imports of lubricating and batching oils from foreign countries and Burma increased (in each case by 2½ million gallons) to nearly 12 and 6 million gallons, respectively. Fuel oil rose from 7½ million gallons to 16 million gallons, most of which came from Borneo. Practically no petrol or benzine was inported from abroad, but imports from Burma showed a great advance by over 5 million gallons to 8¼ million gallons due to the great progress of motor transport throughout India.

Hardware.

370. Imports of hardware advanced in value from Rs. 170 lakhs in 1919-20 to Rs. 312 lakhs in 1920-21. Both the United States of America and the United Kingdom increased their share of the trade, while that of Japan declined.

Paper and pasteboard.

371. The imports of paper and pasteboard made a remarkable recovery during the year, exceeding in volume those recorded in the pre-war years being nearly three times as great as those of 1919-20. The total value of all kinds of paper was Rs. 206 lakhs as against Rs. 59 lakhs in the preceding year. The most important item was printing paper, imports of which amounted to 9,442 tons, valued at Rs. 98 lakhs, mainly from Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Salt.

372. The total imports of salt amounted to 502,000 tons against 386,000 tons in 1919-20. The increase was due to the reappearance of Hamburg and Tunis salt and to larger supplies having been received from the principal sources except Port Said. During the six months April to September the maximum price fixed by Government (Rs. 150 for 100 maunds) ruled but at the end of the financial year the market price was just over Rs. 100.

Motor vehicles.

373. Importations of motor vehicles considerably increased during the year under review. In all, 6,445 motor cars were imported, valued at Rs. 318 lakhs; 1,790 motor cycles, valued at Rs. 17 lakhs, and 1,213 motor wagons, valued at Rs. 87 lakhs. In the previous year, the numbers of motor cars imported were 3,452, cycles 8,121, and wagons 386.

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

The following table shows the values of the principal articles of the export trade of Calcutta and their comparative importance:—

—	Average for the 5 years, 1909-1910 to 1913-1914.	Average for the 5 years, 1914-1915 to 1918-1919.	1919-1920.	1920-1921.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.	Difference between 1919-1920 and 1920-1921.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1. Jute manufactures ...	20,17,56,549	40,07,13,885	49,82,28,096	52,84,61,001	50·18	3,02,32,905	.....
2. Jute raw	19,84,43,720	12,03,33,095	22,68,91,552	15,83,03,440	15·03	.....	6,85,88,112
3. Lac	2,16,19,160	2,53,92,983	7,22,10,576	7,57,74,430	7·19	35,63,854	.....
4. Tea	8,96,12,790	12,55,10,614	14,24,48,927	7,33,63,147	6·96	.....	6,90,85,780
5. Seeds	4,92,07,113	2,25,23,662	6,17,86,993	3,60,98,561	3·43	.....	2,56,88,432
6. Hides and skins, raw ...	7,59,54,271	5,13,57,321	13,57,13,452	2,76,97,085	2·63	.....	1,08,06,367
7. Opium	6,37,91,756	2,17,33,939	1,96,02,620	2,52,58,865	2·40	56,56,245	.....
8. Metals and Ores	36,43,472	80,26,148	76,60 575	1,61,04,675	1·53	82,44,100	.....
9. Cotton, raw	1,23,30,432	96,21,605	2,46,11,567	1,55,97,533	1·48	.....	1,90,14,034
10. Coal, coke and patent fuel.	75,66,939	48,10,018	80,82,398	1,47,75,531	1·40	66,93,133	.....
11. Articles (not specified) exported by posts.	8,04,230	19,37,038	62,89,962	1,04,05,197	·99	41,15,235	.....
12. Grain, pulse and flour ...	8,12,60,916	2,40,38,422	1,59,97,191	92,70,787	·88	.....	67,26,404
13. Mica	29,92,225	50,51,981	75,30,112	90,50,245	·85	15,20,133	.....
14. Hemp, raw	37,91,262	49,91,954	1,06,83,033	54,63,896	·52	.....	52,19,137
15. Saltpetre	34,22,785	60,99,540	48,70,018	54,60,548	·52	5,90,130	.....
16. Manures	27,19,022	23,13,450	58,56,126	53,52,620	·51	.....	5,03,506
17. Cotton twist and yarn ...	28,36,701	11,90,182	1,05,99,972	41,99,740	·40	.....	64,00,232
18. Woollen manufactures ...	13,26,119	9,53,059	37,73,435	41,92,884	·40	4,19,449	.....
19. Dyeing and tanning substances—other than indigo.	22,27,633	27,75,338	59,74,087	25,91,829	·25	.....	33,82,258
20. Oils	25,06,272	54,21,488	69,99,097	25,48,261	·24	.....	44,50,836

The total exports of Indian merchandise showed a decrease in value of 19 per cent. over the previous year and amounted to Rs. 108 crores.

The more important articles of export are especially noticed below:—

Raw jute and jute manufactures.

374. The two principal characteristics of the year's trade in jute were—(1) the decrease in the exports of raw jute on account of the deficient crop and (2) an increase in shipments of manufactured goods, as compared with last year. The exports of raw jute from Calcutta by sea showed a fall of 15 per cent. from 3,069,000 to 2,584,000 bales. The value also decreased by 30 per cent. to nearly Rs. 16 crores against Rs. 23 crores a year ago. Exports from Chittagong fell from 212,000 bales in 1919-20 to 56,000 bales, so that for the whole of Bengal the total shipments of raw jute dropped by 20 per cent. from 3,281,000 to 2,641,000 bales. The marked contraction in exports from Calcutta was chiefly due to the falling-off in shipments to the United Kingdom from 1½ million to only 714,476 bales. The second heaviest decrease was in the case of France, the exports to that country amounting to 280,300 bales against 427,100 bales last year. Shipments to Brazil, Italy and Belgium also decreased, while Germany, the United States and Spain increased their demands. The collections of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust amounted to Rs. 8,56 lakhs as against Rs. 9·4 lakhs in 1919-20.

Shipments of gunny bags increased from 340 millions, valued at Rs. 18½ crores, to 532 millions, valued at Rs. 23¾ crores, in the year under report. The exports of gunny cloth also increased from 1,275 million yards, valued at Rs. 31 crores, to 1,352 million yards, valued at Rs. 28½ crores. The general increase in exports was accompanied by an appreciable fall in prices. Shipments both of bags and cloth to the United Kingdom fell off considerably as also to the Argentine Republic and Uruguay. There were small decreases in the exports of bags to the Straits Settlements, Japan, Siam and Turkey. Shorter shipments of cloth to France were more than made good by an increase in bags. Exports to the United States increased by nearly 29 million bags and 114 million yards of cloth to 71 million bags and 933 million yards of cloth. There was also a large increase in the shipments of bags to Australia. Exports of bags and cloth to coast ports made a marked recovery in quantity by 33 per cent. from 42,615 to 56,731 tons and in value by 24 per cent. from Rs. 2,15 lakhs to Rs. 2,67 lakhs, due to heavier shipments to Burma and to the revival in coastwise traffic with Bombay and Sind.

Tea.

375. The total quantity of tea exported decreased by 85 million lbs. from 269 million lbs., valued at Rs. 14¼ crores, to 181 million lbs., valued at Rs. 7⅓ crores. The exports of tea from Calcutta during the year were the lowest since 1910-11, the United Kingdom alone accounting for a decrease

of 80 million lbs. from 236 to 156 million lbs. Exports from Chittagong amounted to nearly 66 million lbs., a drop of 9 per cent. as compared with the preceding year, and the total exports from the Presidency of Bengal to foreign ports aggregated 250 against 341 million lbs. in 1919-20. Shipments from Calcutta to the United States dropped by 3 million lbs. to South America by a million lbs. and to Canada by 166,800 lbs.; exports to Australia also declined by a million lbs. Shipments of tea waste which were very heavy last year ($7\frac{3}{4}$ million lbs.) fell to $6\frac{1}{2}$ million lbs. in the year under report. The average price realised in Calcutta at the auction sales during 1920-21 was 5 annas 4 pies per lb. against 8 annas 1 pie in the previous year.

376. The exports of lac decreased from 373,550 cwts. to 308, 700 cwts., but owing to favourable prices the value increased from Rs. 722 lakhs to Rs. 758 lakhs. The principal customer was the United States which took 208,150 cwts., the United Kingdom coming next with nearly 55,000 cwts. The price of T. N. in April 1920 was Rs. 152, in July Rs. 240, at the end of December Rs. 140 and closed at the end of March with Rs. 88 per factory maund. **Lac.**

377. The total quantity of oilseeds exported during the year 1920-21 amounted to 111,000 tons, valued at Rs. 354 lakhs, against 151,000 tons, valued at Rs. 610 lakhs, in the preceding year. The decrease was chiefly due to smaller shipments of linseed 105,000 tons as against 135,000 tons in 1919-20. The bulk of the trade went, as usual, to the United Kingdom (81,700 tons). Australia increased her demands for Indian linseed from 6,200 tons to 13,700 tons, while those of France and Belgium decreased. There were no exports to the United States. Exports of rape seed from Calcutta increased slightly; the major portion of the trade was absorbed by Belgium. Shipments of castor seed (1,000 tons) were on a level with the previous years. Exports of groundnuts decreased from 3,824 to 41 tons, of poppy seed from 3,533 to 434 tons, of sesamum from 1,215 to 376 tons, and of cotton seed from 2,668 to 365 tons. **Seeds.**

378. The total quantity of raw hides and skins exported during the year 1920-21 was exceptionally low, 17,000 tons, valued at Rs. 276 lakhs, against 51,800 tons, valued at Rs. 1,377 lakhs, in the preceding year. All the kinds of hides and skins suffered, the most noticeable decrease being under goat skins. The feature of the trade in raw hides was the increase from 8,998 to 62,670 pieces in shipments to Germany. Both the United States and the United Kingdom, the two principal customers, considerably decreased their demands, and their places were taken by Italy and Germany. Only 5·7 million pieces of raw skins, chiefly goat skins, were exported during the year 1920-21, as against 20·5 million pieces in the year before. The United States was again the biggest customer, although she took only 4·6 million against 18·6 million pieces in 1919-20. France lost her position as the second best customer and took only 242,345 pieces as against over a million pieces in the preceding year. Canada and Holland, on the other hand, increased their demands from 60,000 and 11,040 to 185,881 and 110,900 pieces, respectively. **Hides and skins, raw.**

379. Private shipments of opium recovered from 6,247 to 7,659 chests, while Government shipments, the bulk of which went to the Straits Settlements, were reduced from 4,212 to 3,165 chests. Of the shipments on private account, 3,000 chests were consigned to the Government of the Dutch East Indies (Java). Siam came second with an increase of 300 chests from 1,400 to 1,700 and Cochin China third with 1,230 chests. The agreement for the supply by the Government of India of opium to the Government of Hongkong has been renewed for five years with effect from January 1921. **Opium.**

380. The total value of metals and ores exported increased from Rs. 79 to Rs. 161 lakhs. Exports of manganese ore were on a remarkably large scale, amounting to 375,600 tons, valued at Rs. 94 lakhs, as against 127,900 tons in 1919-20. Of the total exports 133,600 tons were directed to the United Kingdom, 116,000 tons to the United States, 66,900 to Belgium, 48,000 to France and the balance to Holland, Italy, Japan and other countries. Ferro-manganese was exported to the extent of 3,900 tons as against 500 tons in the preceding year. Shipments of pig iron advanced from **Metals and ores.**

41,700 to 48,400 tons, Japan taking 47,400 tons. In 1920 Tata's and the Bengal Iron Company, Limited (formerly Barakar Works), produced 221,606 and 90,106 tons against 232,368 and 84,966 tons in 1919.

Cotton, raw.

381. The share of Calcutta, though small, in the export trade of raw cotton suffered a severe set back during the year 1920-21, owing to smaller supplies having been received from the Central Provinces and Berar where the crop was 60 per cent. below that of the previous year. The total exports amounted to 13,000 tons, valued at Rs. 155 lakhs, against 25,000 tons, valued at Rs. 346 lakhs, in the preceding year. Japan was, as usual, the chief customer, taking more than half the exports, China, the United States and Germany were the next best customers.

Coal.

382. The total quantity of coal exported from Calcutta by sea, both foreign and coastwise, on private and Government account including bunker coal, amounted to 3,478,000 tons against approximately 1,850,000 tons in 1919-20. The most striking feature of the foreign export trade was the large quantity taken by Ceylon which colony before the war took very little Indian coal, *viz.*, an increase of 248,000 tons from 426,000 to 674,000 tons. Exports to the Straits Settlements also showed an advance from 120,000 to 194,000 tons but the figures were still far below the pre-war level. Coastwise trade, owing to the diversion of rail-borne traffic to the sea route, expanded from 213,000 to 1,409,000 tons, the largest increase being 543,980 tons to Bombay, 312,680 to Burma, and 199,740 to Madras.

Grain, pulse and flour.

383. Owing to strict control over exports to foreign countries having been maintained throughout the year, the total quantity of food-grains exported during the year 1920-21 was nearly a half of what was exported in the preceding year *viz.*, 36,700 tons, valued at Rs. 93 lakhs, against 72,800 tons, valued at Rs. 160 lakhs, in 1919-20. The imports of rice and paddy from Burma decreased from 416,900 to 231,100 tons.

Mica.

384. The quantity of mica exported showed an advance from 50,200 to 62,200 cwts. and the value from Rs. 75 to Rs. 90 lakhs. Shipments to the United Kingdom decreased from 41,500 to 32,800 cwts. The United States considerably increased her demands from 7,300 to 26,400 cwts., while Germany and Canada took 1,900 and 200 cwts., respectively, against nothing in 1919-20.

Hemp.

385. There was a sharp contraction in the export of hemp, the quantity having dropped by 40 per cent. from 494,400 to 298,700 cwts. and in value by 49 per cent. from Rs. 107 to Rs. 55 lakhs. Shipments to the United Kingdom declined from 306,000 to 120,000 cwts. and to France from 69,300 to 18,000 cwts., while the United States and Greece took 3,760 and 7,100 cwts., respectively, against 14,000 cwts. each in 1919-20. Belgium raised her purchases from 77,000 to 110,000 cwts. and Italy from 5,000 to 16,000 cwts.

Distribution of the Import and Export trade of Calcutta.

386. The following table shows the distribution of the Import and Export trade of Calcutta :—

—	IMPORTS (MERCHANDISE).						EXPORTS (MERCHANDISE).					
	AVERAGE FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1914-15 TO 1918-19.		1919-20.		1920-21.		AVERAGE FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1914-15 TO 1918-19.		1919-20.		1920-21.	
	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.
United Kingdom	34,73	60·7	46,34	55·6	77,35	65·1	26,35	30·1	41,54	31·0	22,60	20·8
British Possessions.	3,50	6·1	5,50	6·6	4,38	3·7	14,16	16·2	13,81	10·2	16,90	15·6
United States ...	4,25	7·4	10,85	13·0	14,06	11·8	22,26	25·5	39,61	29·5	33,93	31·3
Japan ...	5,10	8·9	5,65	6·7	7,24	6·1	2,26	2·6	6,50	4·8	3,28	3·0
Java ...	6,45	11·3	10,79	13·0	6,61	5·5	1,62	1·8	1,78	1·3	2,25	2·0
Belgium ...	11	·2	27	·3	1,75	1·4	8	·09	3,18	2·3	2,39	2·2
Italy ...	42	·7	28	·3	1,18	1·0	2,45	2·8	2,01	1·5	1,26	1·1
Germany ...	30	·5	2	·03	1,01	·8	62	·7	22	·1	2,87	2·6
France ...	27	·5	33	·4	73	·6	3,03	3·5	6,92	5·1	3,82	3·5
South America	1	·02	4	·06	...	...	4,74	5·4	8,57	6·3	8,45	7·8
Total (including other countries).	57,24	100	83,24	100	11,870	100	87,35	100	1,34,18	100	1,08,30	100

The total trade of Calcutta with the United Kingdom advanced from Rs. 88 to Rs. 99 crores, and her share in the grand total increased from 40 to 44 per cent. Her share in the import trade rose from 56 to 65 per cent. The chief items were cotton and woollen goods, machinery, railway materials cement and soap. Shipments of all the staple articles chiefly of tea and raw jute were considerably reduced, and the United Kingdom share in the export trade of Calcutta declined from 31 to 21 per cent. Imports from all the more important overseas territories except Canada and South Africa declined. In the case of Australia the fall is chiefly due to the absence of any consignments of wheat; Egypt and Mauritius reduced their supplies of salt and sugar, respectively. The straits Settlements sent less betelnuts, sago, tin and mineral oil, while the remarkable contraction of the copra trade considerably reduced Ceylon's share in the total import trade. The improvement in Canada's position was largely due to the fact that motor cars manufactured there and shipped under bond from American ports, which formerly were registered under the United States, have now been credited to the correct country of origin. Wooden slippers to the value of Rs. 21 lakhs were imported from British Columbia. On the export side total shipments to all British Possessions showed an increase of Rs. 3 crores in value.

The most interesting feature of the year's trade with Continental countries in Europe was an increase in the trade with Germany. Imports from that country increased from less than Rs. 2½ lakhs to over Rs. 100 lakhs in value and exports thereto from Rs. 22 lakhs to nearly Rs. 300 lakhs. The two most important articles imported were iron and steel (Rs. 20 lakhs) and salt (Rs. 24½ lakhs) while her purchases of raw jute represented more than 30 per cent. of the total value of the exports to Germany. Exports to Belgium, France and Italy considerably decreased, but those countries, especially Belgium and Italy, effected remarkable an advance in the import trade into Calcutta as that of Germany; Belgium sent iron and steel to the value of Rs. 90 lakhs, glassware Rs. 17 lakhs and cotton manufactures Rs. 24 lakhs, and Italy sent cotton goods worth Rs. 31 lakhs and motor tyres Rs. 28 lakhs.

Imports of sugar from Java were greatly reduced and Java's share in the import trade was below that of Japan. Exports to Japan were hardly more than half of last year's, the shrinkage was chiefly in the exports of raw cotton, raw jute, jute manufactures, indigo, oilcakes and manures. Imports from the United States advanced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 14 crores. The largest increase was in motor cars and motor cycles, the value of which advanced from Rs. 109 to Rs. 290 lakhs; the two items next in importance were mineral oil, which reached a total of Rs. 231 lakhs, and iron and steel Rs. 215 lakhs. The total value of the exports to the United States of America was more than 5 crores behind that of 1919-20, due chiefly to the collapse by nearly Rs. 9 crores of hides and skins shipments. Almost Rs. 2 crores worth of sugar were re-exported to that country during the year under review.

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1920-21.]

Total trade.

387. The total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Nepal, Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan in the year ended 31st March 1921, amounted to Rs. 244 lakhs as against Rs. 202 lakhs in 1919-20—an increase of 21 per cent. The figures exclude the movements of treasure, the registration of which was, as usual, somewhat defective. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 201 lakhs) 54 per cent. came from Nepal, 28 per cent. from Sikkim, 16 per cent. from Tibet and the balance (nearly 2 per cent.) from Bhutan. Of the total exports (Rs. 43 lakhs) nearly 50 per cent. went to Tibet, 35 per cent. to Sikkim, 12 per cent, to Nepal and 3 per cent. to Bhutan.

Imports.

388. The principal articles of imports into Bengal were—fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 1 crore to which Nepal contributed Rs. 66 lakhs, Sikkim Rs. 32 lakhs; animals (living) Rs. 52 lakhs in which Nepal's share was Rs. 40 lakhs, and Sikkim's Rs. 9 lakhs; wool (raw) Rs. 25 lakhs received almost

entirely from Tibet; grain and pulses Rs. 6 lakhs supplied chiefly by Sikkim; provisions Rs. 5½ lakhs sent by Nepal and Sikkim; spices Rs. 5 lakhs supplied almost entirely by Sikkim, and hides and skins Rs. 4 lakhs contributed chiefly by Tibet.

Exports.

389. Manufactured articles, such as cotton manufactures, chiefly piece-goods, metals, silk and woollen piece-goods, constitute the bulk of the exports from Bengal. The exports of cotton manufactures were valued at Rs. 13 lakhs of which twist and yarn were valued at Rs. 1 lakh and piece-goods Rs. 12 lakhs. Tibet took cotton piece-goods worth about Rs. 5 lakhs, Sikkim about Rs. 4 lakhs and Nepal Rs. 3 lakhs. The total value of exports of metals and manufactures thereof amounted to Rs. 670 lakhs. Tibet was the chief customer; it purchased brass and copper worth Rs. 528 lakhs. The total value of exports of provisions amounted to Rs. 431 lakhs and the principal recipient was Sikkim (Rs. 376 lakhs). The exports of grain and pulses, chiefly rice were valued at Rs. 234 lakhs; Sikkim alone received two-thirds of the total quantity with a value of Rs. 1½ lakhs. The value of oils exported amounted to Rs. 1·68 lakhs.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1920-21.]

Coasting trade.

390. The total value of the coasting trade of Bengal including Government stores (Rs. 38,62 lakhs) showed a slight increase of Rs. 84 lakhs due to the partial recovery of sea-borne trade between Bengal and Western India, the renewal of coal shipments to Bombay deserving special mention.

Imports.

391. Imports of private merchandise increased from nearly Rs. 23 crores to over Rs. 23½ crores and exports from Rs. 13 crores to Rs. 14 crores. The total trade of Calcutta with other Indian ports increased from Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 33 crores. The total imports into Calcutta advanced from Rs. 19 crores to Rs. 21 crores. The improvement was chiefly due to the revival of facilities for the transport of commodities from Bombay whose shipments of Indian cotton goods including twist and yarn advanced from Rs. 249 to Rs. 663 lakhs. Burma supplied more mineral oil and teak, the values rising from Rs. 305 lakhs and Rs. 131 lakhs to Rs. 405 lakhs and Rs. 154 lakhs, respectively. Other noticeable increases were in cocoanut oil from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 39 lakhs and sugar from Rs. 1¼ lakhs to nearly Rs. 10 lakhs, nearly all from Madras, while an increase in imports of coir manufactures from Rs. 16 to Rs. 19 lakhs was mainly owing to larger receipts from Travancore. Fresh vegetables, chiefly potatoes, from Burma increased from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs. On the other hand there was a heavy reduction in purchases from Burma of rice from Rs. 671 lakhs to Rs. 364 lakhs, of stick lac from Rs. 51 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs and of pulse from Rs. 33 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs; the value of groundnuts imported from Madras also dropped from Rs. 57 lakhs to Rs. 17 lakhs. Imports of raw cotton declined by Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 31 lakhs, Bombay sending more but Madras and Burma very much less.

Exports.

392. The total export trade advanced from Rs. 11 crores to Rs. 12⅓ crores. The most striking increase was under coal, the value expending from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 180 lakhs. Shipments of jute manufactures, which consisted mainly of bags, increased from Rs. 224 lakhs to Rs. 280 lakhs, due to the sea route once more coming into effective competition with railway traffic. Shipments of grain, pulse and flour declined from Rs. 184 lakhs to Rs. 158 lakhs. Exports of rice dropped from Rs. 73 lakhs to Rs. 68 lakhs. Shipments to Madras fell from Rs. 69 lakhs to Rs. 23 lakhs in value. Shipments of Indian cotton twist and yarn, nearly all to Burma, were of next importance, the value Rs. 125 lakhs showing a decrease by Rs. 7 lakhs from that of the previous year. Cotton twist and yarn of foreign manufactures advanced from Rs. 14 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs, Burma and Bihar and Orissa taking the bulk of the exports. Among exports of foreign merchandise from Calcutta the principal items were cotton goods Rs. 50 lakhs (a decline by Rs. 21 lakhs due to smaller shipments to Burma); metals, chiefly iron and steel and copper, Rs. 29 lakhs and sugar Rs. 23 lakhs as against Rs. 77 lakhs in the previous year.

393. Imports of Government transactions (excluding treasure) contracted by Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs and exports by Rs. 51 lakhs to Rs. 61 lakhs, the decline in the former was due to smaller receipts of timber, apparel and telegraph materials and in the latter to reduce shipments of opium, metals and arms and ammunitions. Government transactions.

IV.—TRADE BY RAIL AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal during 1920-21.]

394. The quantity and value of the inland trade are shown in the following table:— Rail and river-borne trade.

	1919-20.		1920-21.	
	Mds. (1,000).	Rs. (1,000).	Mds. (1,000).	Rs. (1,000).
Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other provinces.	157,789	89,64,34	208,308	80,16,15
Exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other previnces.	105,157	91,65,32	90,177	83,75,24
Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.	108,142	79,26,56	106,368	68,29,14
Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	31,906	50,92,61	32,828	52,31,65

The total imports into Bengal including Calcutta were valued at Rs. 80 crores of which Bihar and Orissa contributed 46 per cent., the United Provinces 17 per cent., Assam 14 per cent., Bombay 9 per cent., Madras 5 per cent., the Central Provinces and Berar 3 per cent. and the Punjab 3 per cent. Of the total exports (Rs. 84 crores) 33 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 22 per cent. to the United Provinces, 13 per cent. to the Punjab, 13 per cent. to Assam, 6 per cent. to the Bombay Presidency, 4 per cent. each to the Central Provinces and the Madras Presidency, and the remainder (5 per cent) to the other minor provinces.

395. The principal articles of import into Bengal including Calcutta were from Bihar and Orissa, coal and coke (Rs. 10,09 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 7,49 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 320 lakhs), oilseeds, chiefly linseed (Rs. 284 lakhs), lac (Rs. 266 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly gram and pulse (Rs. 212 lakhs), jute raw (Rs. 112 lakhs), tobacco, chiefly raw (Rs. 88 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 58 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 54 lakhs), hemp (Rs. 50 lakhs), ghi (Rs. 43 lakhs), spices—chillies (Rs. 35 lakhs) and saltpetre (Rs. 32 lakhs); from the United Provinces, oilseeds (Rs. 316 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly wheat (Rs. 295 lakhs), lac (Rs. 158 lakhs), opium (Rs. 136 lakhs), ghi (Rs. 69 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 51 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 43 lakhs), hemp (Rs. 32 lakhs), wool manufactures—carpets and rugs (Rs. 30 lakhs), saltpetre (Rs. 21 lakhs) and cotton raw (Rs. 20 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 604 lakhs), jute raw (Rs. 119 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 118 lakhs), timber (Rs. 60 lakhs), kerosene oil (Rs. 58 lakhs), oilseeds (Rs. 37 lakhs, lac (Rs. 31 lakhs) and hides and skins (Rs. 23 lakhs); from the Bombay Presidency including port, cotton manufactures (Rs. 602 lakhs), metals (Rs. 28 lakhs) and cotton raw (Rs. 12 lakhs); from the Madras Presidency including ports, cotton manufactures (Rs. 106 lakhs), tobacco, raw (Rs. 91 lakhs), oilseeds, chiefly groundnuts (Rs. 49 lakhs), spices, chiefly pepper (Rs. 45 lakhs), oils, chiefly cocoanut oil (Rs. 33 lakhs), ghi (Rs. 22 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 15 lakhs) and leather unwrought (Rs. 14 lakhs); from the Punjab, grain and pulse, chiefly wheat (Rs. 126 lakhs), cotton raw (Rs. 16 lakhs) and woollen piece-goods, Indian (Rs. 9 lakhs); and from the Central Provinces and Berar, metallic ores (Rs. 71 lakhs), cotton raw (Rs. 61 lakhs) and cotton manufactures (Rs. 30 lakhs). Imports by rail and river into Bengal.

Exports by rail and river from Bengal.

396. The exports from Bengal including Calcutta to Bihar and Orissa comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 740 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 591 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 317 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 176 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 154 lakhs), salt (Rs. 81 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 75 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 69 lakhs and coal and coke (Rs. 55 lakhs); to the United Provinces, cotton manufactures (Rs. 429 lakhs), metals and manuafctures thereof (Rs. 340 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 254 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 164 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 112 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 113 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 64 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 48 lakhs), lac (Rs. 44 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 34 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 255 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 181 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 166 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 113 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 108 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 51 lakhs) and grain and pulse (Rs. 40 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Rs. 364 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 139 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 88 lakhs), oils (Rs. 59 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 50 lakhs), spices (Rs. 34 lakhs) and salt (Rs. 29 lakhs) to Bombay Presidency including port, coal and coke (Rs. 163 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 66 lakhs), tea, Indian (Rs. 45 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 42 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 39 lakhs) and grain and pulse (Rs. 20 lakhs); to the Central Provinces, grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 86 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 37 lakhs), kerosene oil (Rs. 31 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 28 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 25 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 21 lakhs) and cotton manufactures (Rs. 18 lakhs); and to the Madras Presidency including ports, cotton manufactures (Rs. 77 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 64 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 47 lakhs) and gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 22 lakhs).

SUMMARY.

Rail and river, borne trade.

397. The total value of the trade (external exports and imports and internal) carried by rail and river was Rs. 298 crores as against Rs. 323 crores in 1919-20. Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other provinces fell off from Rs. 89 crores to Rs. 80 crores or about 10 per cent. and exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other provinces also declined from Rs. 91 crores to Rs. 84 crores or about 8 per cent.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Provincial Engineering Service.

398. In order to improve the pay and conditions of service of those Upper Subordinates who were not selected for appointment to the Provincial Service of Assistant Engineers and who did not elect for service in the new Subordinate Engineering Service, it was decided to introduce with effect from the 1st February 1920, a new scale of pay on Rs. 80 to Rs. 550 during a service of 32 years. On the termination of the services of the present Upper Subordinates, this Upper Subordinate Service will disappear. The designations of overseers, supervisors and sub-engineers were changed to Upper Subordinates.

Subordinate Engineering Service.

399. A new service designated the Subordinate Engineering Service was created from the 1st February 1920 on a scale of pay of Rs. 60—5—110—115—5—125—10—225 with an efficiency bar at Rs. 115 and a selection grade on Rs. 250. The members of this Subordinate Engineering Service are now called overseers. Selected sub-overseers were appointed to the Subordinate Engineering Service. Those sub-overseers who were not appointed were brought on a revised scale of pay on Rs. 50—$\frac{5}{2}$—100 with the designation of Lower Subordinates. On the termination of the services of the present Lower Subordinates, the Lower Subordinate Service will disappear.

Reorganization of specialist branches.

400. The opinions of the local Governments and Administrations on the recommendations of the Public Works Department Reorganization Committee regarding the reorganization of the specialist branches of the Public Works Department together with the final conclusions of the Government of India thereon were forwarded for the orders of the Secretary of State for India.

The following general principles were accepted by His Majesty's Secretary of State:—

(1) Special service to be on a Provincial and not on an Imperial basis.

(2) The Secretary of State's sanction to be obtained to the number and classification of the posts.

(3) Pay to be according to age and the place of recruitment in accordance with the scale of pay of Europe or India recruited branches of the Indian Service of Engineers.

401. During the year under review the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the separation of the Buildings and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department and the consequent alterations in the cadre of the Indian Service of Engineers. The ultimate organization will, in accordance with that sanction, be gradually evolved. The question of the formation of new circles and divisions and of the distribution of the staff was under the consideration of Government. **Separation of Buildings and Irrigation Branches.**

402. The formation of a temporary Division directly under the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, to be designated the Grand Trunk Canal (Construction) Division was sanctioned from the 1st November 1920 with headquarters at Calcutta. Mr. W. G. Melvin, temporary Engineer, was placed in charge of the Division. **New divisions**

A temporary division designated the Sanitary Drainage Division for the creation of works in connection with anti-malarial schemes in this Presidency was sanctioned for a period of one year with effect from the 1st February 1921. Mr. W. J. Kerr was placed in charge of the division and on his appointment as Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, he was succeeded by Mr. A. J .G. Maflin. The headquarters of the division which is to be under the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, were fixed at Calcutta.

Buildings.

IMPERIAL CIVIL WORKS.

403. Several temporary sheds were erected in the compound of the Salt Golahs at Salkea. **Salt.**

404. Electric lights and fans were installed in the office and residential portions of the Custom House at Budge-Budge. **Customs.**

405. The Silver Mint tank at His Majesty's Mint, Calcutta, was widened and the roadway at its north end was also widened and paved with stone setts. **Mint.**

406. A four-storeyed building was under construction on the site of the old Arcade Building in the compound of the General Post Office, Calcutta, for providing increased accommodation wanted by the Postal Department. Certain internal improvements were carried out to the old General Post Office building to suit the modern system of work. Additions and alterations were carried out to the second floor of premises Nos. 5 and 6, Government Place, North, for the accommodation of the office of the Deputy Postmaster-General, Railway Mail Service and Sorting, Eastern Circle. **Post and Telegraph office.**

At the Telegraph Storeyard, Alipore, an upper storey over building No. 1-6 was built for providing accommodation for the Line staff under training. Also a motor cleaning shed was constructed. A two-storeyed building was under construction. The extension of the stationery godown as well as the construction of the office of the Chief Electrician were in progress. Construction of the Post and Telegraph office at Darjeeling was almost completed. The construction of an additional room for the Lineman in the outhouses attached to the Post and Telegraph office at Siliguri was taken in hand and completed. A new record room and forms room attached to the new Post office at Chittagong was constructed.

Treasury and Currency.

407. Additions and alterations in the ground floor of the Treasury Buildings, Calcutta, were carried out to provide accommodation for the officers and clerks of the Accountant-General, Central Revenue. Lavatories were provided in the Paper Currency office, Calcutta.

Miscellaneous.

408. Improvements to the unfiltered water-supply arrangement to the Eastern Bengal Railway office at No. 3, Koilaghat Street, Calcutta, were carried out. Premises No. 3-1, St. George's Gate Road, known as St. Stephen's School and Parsonage at Hastings, were purchased for the accommodation of the office and menial staff of Maidan Subdivision of Public Works Department. The erection of instrument checking standards at the headquarters of the Kalimpong Subdivision in the Darjeeling district was completed.

Settlement buildings.

409. Electric lights and fans were provided in the Settlement office and officers' residence at Bankura. The construction of the Settlement buildings at Serajganj was in progress.

PROVINCIAL CIVIL BUILDINGS.

Revenue and Judicial Courts.

410. The following works were completed :—

Improvements to the latrines and urinals in the compound of the Small Cause Court, Sealdah; provision of improved accommodation for strong room and Treasury guards' barrack in the subdivisional court at Magura; construction of four iron record racks in the Khas Tehsil record room at Contai; reconstruction of a detached kitchen for the Treasury guards of the Deputy Commissioner's cutchery at Darjeeling, conversion of the existing godown attached to the cutchery at Kalimpong into Court Sub-Inspector's office malkhana and hajat; extension of the Subdivisional Court building at Thakurgaon; construction of a combined Sub-Treasury and guards' house at Gaibanda; and provision of fire quenching appliances to the administration buildings at Jalpaiguri and of a tiffin shed for the Hindu and Muhammadan officers of the Collectorate at Bogra.

The following works were in progress :—

Construction of two-storeyed civil court buildings at Burdwan; improvements to the strong room Treasury guards' barrack in the Subdivisional Court at Jhenidah; construction of the Collector's Court with Treasury and guards' house at Hijli; construction of the Subdivisional Court, Sub-Treasury and guard house and Munsiff's Court at Jhargram; provision of boundary wall and gates for the Sub-Treasury at Uluberia; addition of two rooms to the Nazir's godown attached to the Munsiff's Court at Tamluk; sinking a masonry well in the Court compound at Jalpaiguri; improvements in the guard house attached to the Treasury buildings at Bogra; construction of a combined Sub-Treasury and guards' house at Kurigram; construction of a record room for the Collectorate at Faridpur; construction of the Subdivisional Officer's Court at Maniganj; and construction of a combined Court building for the Sessions Judge, Sub-Judge and Additional Munsiff at Bogra.

Agricultural.

411. Construction of certain buildings for the proposed agricultural farms at Khudsol in Bankura and at Suri was in progress. Certain buildings in connection with the establishment of an Agricultural Middle School at Chinsurah were completed; construction of one agricultural farm house at Sagardi in the Faridpur district was nearing completion; construction of Agricultural Farm buildings at Goalchamat in Faridpur district was in progress and the construction of a single storeyed field laboratory and a seed godown for the Botanical section of the Central Farm at Manipur was completed. Restoration of buildings in the farm at Manipur damaged by the cyclone was completed. Construction of District Agricultural Farm buildings at Pabna was in progress.

Residence for Government Officials.

412. The portion of the Porabazar land allotted for the residence of the Chief Justice of Bengal was raised and trees planted along the boundaries. Construction of residences for the District Magistrate, Joint Magistrate and

Superintendent of Police at Hijli was in progress. Construction of a residence for the Sub-Judge at Bogra was also in progress. Land was acquired for the construction of a residence for the Additional Sessions Judge at Bogra. A temporary residence for the District Judge of Noakhali was constructed at Sonapur. Additions and alterations to the Civil Surgeons' residence at Chittagong were carried out.

Subdivisional Officers' and Munsiffs' residences.

413. Construction of residences for the Sub-Deputy Magistrate and two Munsiffs at Hijli was in progress. Construction of quarters of the Subdivisional Officer, Munsiff and Sub-Deputy Collector at Jhargram was in progress. Construction of residence for two sets of Deputy Magistrates at Hijli was completed. Construction of a stable and syce's room for the Subdivisional Officer's quarters at Diamond Harbour was in progress. Materials were collected for the Munsiff's residence at Ghatal. Construction of three Munsiff's quarters at Bogra was in progress. Improvements to the 1st Munsiff's quarters at Kurigram was almost completed. Construction of a 3-feet diameter well in the Munsiff's quarters at Naogaon was in progress. Construction of a new residence for the Civil Subdivisional Officer at Alipur Duars was completed. Construction of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Brahmanberia was in progress.

Secretariat offices.

414. The office room on the second floor of Block II, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, which was damaged by fire, was restored and fire appliances were supplied throughout the building.

Printing.

415. Construction of the main block of the Bengal Secretariat Press at Chetla and the Superintendent's residence was in progress.

Circuit house.

416. Construction of a temporary circuit house at Sonapur was completed.

Residence for Local Government.

417. Construction of quarters for the confidential assistant to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal at Darjeeling was finally completed. Repairs to the temporary Government House and Staff quarters at Dacca rendered necessary by the cyclone of September 1919 and reconstruction of out-offices thereto, which were in progress in the previous year, were completed.

Excise.

418. Construction of quarters for the Excise Inspector at Hijli was in progress. Improvements and additions to the liquor warehouse at Siliguri was taken in hand and completed. Improvements were made to the bonded warehouse at Parbatipur. Construction of a combined liquor warehouse and *ganja gola* at Faridpur was completed. Construction of the liquor warehouse at Mymensingh and provision of water connection in the building were completed.

Registration.

419. The following works were completed:—

Additions and alterations to the Registration office racks at Burdwan; providing fire quenching appliances to and improving the record racks in the Registration office at Jalpaiguri; providing champ planked ceiling in the Sub-Registry office at Gaibandha; extension and alterations of the existing District Registration office at Barisal; and construction of the Sub-Registry office at Anwara in the Chittagong District.

The following works were in progress:—

Construction of Sub-Registrar's office and residence at Hasnabad; extension of the record racks with gangways in the Registration office at Khulna and construction of quarters for the Sub-Registrar at Monohardi.

Jails.

420. Construction of the jail buildings at Hijli and certain additions and alterations in the solitary cell in the Bankura Jail were in progress. Two cells were constructed in the Leper Ward in the Central Jail at Midnapur. A tube well was sunk in the Central Tower Well of the said Central Jail at Midnapur. Construction of a row of separate cells in the Central Jail at Rampur-Boalia was completed. A corrugated iron hajat shed for 50 prisoners was provided in the Bogra Jail. Construction of the Jail Hospital at Jalpaiguri was completed. Certain improvements were made in the Darjeeling Jail. A night latrine for the hajat shed and a stand trough for cattle were provided in the Bogra Jail. The existing drains in the Rangpur Jail were remodelled. A kite motion double barrel force pump was provided for the jail well at Bogra. A corrugated iron roof was provided

to the existing feeding platform in the jail at Jalpaiguri. The work of sinking a masonry well in the jail at Malda was in progress. Certain alterations in the Sub-Jail at Kalimpong were done during the year. Extension of the Sub-Jail at Natore in the Rajshahi District was in progress. Construction of the hospital building for the jail at Faridpur was in progress. Construction of quarters for the Assistant Jailor attached to the District Jail at Chittagong was commenced. Additional barrack, bathing platform and latrine for the Sub-Jail at Brahmanbaria were constructed. Materials were collected for the construction of a small District Jail at Rangamati.

Medical.

421. The following works were in progress:—

Construction of two surgical wards, isolation ward, Morgue and Goomtee for the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah; additions and alterations to the existing Moribund Ward at the Albert Victoria Leper Asylum, Gobra, and construction of a new Eye Hospital and Nurses' Home, Medical College, Calcutta.

A second storey was constructed over the Elliott "A" Ward in the Campbell Hospital, Calcutta. Compounders' quarters, store-room and an office were built in the compound of the Albert Victor Leper Asylum, Gobra.

In the Lunatic Observation Ward at Bhawanipur now under construction the following buildings were completed:—Administrative Block, Segregation Ward, Ayah's Lobby and European Female Wards.

Additions and alterations were made in the Surnomoyee Hostel, Medical College, Calcutta, and improvements to the bath-rooms effected. The Hospital for Tropical Diseases at the Medical College, Calcutta, was completed and furniture supplied. The extension of the school of Tropical Medicine was nearly completed. Construction of the Medical School at Burdwan was approaching completion.

Of the Dacca Mitford Hospital project the works noted below were completed:—

(1) Certain improvements to the Mitford Hospital at Dacca and to the Deputy Superintendent's quarters attached thereto.
(2) Providing furniture and operation-room fittings.
(3) Constructing a retaining wall on the river side attached to the hospital.
(4) Water-supply in the present surgical ward.
(5) Additions and alterations to the Rankin Ward.
(6) Providing electric lights and fans in the out-patient ward.

Electric fans in Physiological, Pathological, class-rooms, etc., in the Medical School at Dacca were provided.

A temporary barrack for the patients of the Lunatic Asylum, Dacca, was constructed and certain improvements were made to the latrines and compound walls.

Ecclesiastical.

422. The cemetery at Asansol was extended.

Education.

The Gymnasium of the Bengal Engineering College at Sibpur was converted into an Assembly and Examination Hall. The Electro-Technical Laboratory was extended and the reclamation of the *jheel* on the north and east of the playing fields was in progress. Additions and alterations were made in the Botany class, Bethune College, Calcutta, and temporary class-rooms were constructed. Installation of electric lights and fans in the Hare School, Calcutta, and the Zilla School, Howrah, were completed, Model Girls' School at Bankura, Muallim Training School at Pipalpathi (Hooghly), and Hindu and Muhammadan cook sheds in the Guru-Training School at Hooghly were completed. Materials were collected for the construction of Zilla School at Burdwan and Mining Lecture Hall at Raneegunj. Construction of a cook shed and a latrine with urinal for the Muallim Training School at Bagerhat was in progress.

The following works were completed:—

Construction of Guru-Training School at Thakurgaon in the Dinajpur district, Kurigram in the Rangpur district and Sagardi in the Faridpur

district; improvements to the newly constructed Muhammadan Hostel attached to the Zilla School at Bogra; additions and alterations to Miss Bose's and Miss Wearing's quarters in the old hospital building of the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong; improvements to the Tennis Court of Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong; improvement to certain springs Nos. 3 and 4, in connection with the water-supply to both the schools at Dow Hill, Kurseong; structural alterations in the School of Engineering, Dacca, for the accommodation of the Salimullah Intermediate College; provision of temporary accommodation for the School of Engineering at Dacca; supply of fitting and improvement to the North Block of the New Government House proposed to be allotted to the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University; additions and alterations to the old Ramna House for the accommodation of one married and one bachelor professor of the Dacca University; acquisition, raising and dressing of the land in connection with the Zilla and Technical School at Barisal and the construction of quarters for the Headmaster of the Guru-Training School at Charia.

The following works were in progress :—

Construction of a Hindu Hostel for the Rajshahi College; construction of a separate room for housing distilled water plant for the Chemical Laboratory, Rajshahi College; construction of a Muhammadan Hostel for the Zilla School at Rangpur; additions and alteration in the practising room attached to the normal School at Rangpur; construction of Guru-Training Schools at Natore, Balurghat and Patuakhali; construction of a common room between the Hindu and Muhammadan Hostels attached to the Zilla School at Malda; construction of a water closet with basin for the use of the teachers of the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong; improvement to the water-supply, Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong, construction of new servants' quarters, dhobikhana, dhobies' tank and a latrine for the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong; adding a boys' wing to the isolation hospital, Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; construction of Jagannath Hall in connection with the Dacca University; construction of two hostels for the Jagannath Hall and construction of residence for the Provost and the Superintendent of the Jagannath Hall and also of two ranges of servants' quarters for the Jagannath Hostel, Dacca; additions and alterations to the old Jagannath College for converting into an Intermediate College at Dacca: construction of headmasters' quarters attached to the Guru-Training School and improvement to the school at Munshiganj; and construction of a hostel for quarters for the Head and Assistant Mistresses of the Vidyamoyee Girls' School at Mymensingh.

Police.

423. Extensive additions and alterations to the Fenwick Bazar thana were carried out to convert it into headquarters of the New Public Vehicles Department with residential quarters for the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of Police. Premises No. 13, Elysium Road, Calcutta, occupied by the Intelligence Branch of the Police were thoroughly repaired. Construction of the new Police Morgue, the Coroner's Court with attached buildings and new Police Hospital at Sibpur was completed; construction of the new Police Hospital at Bhowanipore was in progress; construction of certain Police buildings at Abhoynagore, Khaksha and Bethuadahari was in progress; construction of Police buildings at Khandoghosh, the Police Hospital at Suri and the Reserve Police Lines at Burdwan was completed. Construction of Police inspector's and head constables' quarters at Ramjibanpur and of the Police buildings at Bhagwanpore in the Midnapore district was in progress. Construction of Police buildings at Diamond Harbour was fully completed.

The following works, which were in progress the previous year, were completed during the year under review :—

Construction of Police investigating centres at Titalva in the Jalpaiguri district, Mohanpur Khird in the Rajshahi district, Pirganj and Dhamoirhat in the Dinajpur district; construction of an office building for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Rajshahi Range at Jalpaiguri and improvements in the Police-station at Pirgacha in the Rangpur district.

The following works in connection with the Central Police Training College at Sardah were completed :—

(1) Making roads and approaches.

(2) Construction of quarters for nine hospital wards, one head constable and two compounders attached to the hospital.

The following works were in progress :—

Construction of Police investigating centres at Raninagar in the Rajshahi district, Topan in the Dinajpur district, Gurudaspur in the Rajshahi district, Balurghat in the Dinajpur district, Fulbari and Fulchari in the Rangpur district, Kishoreganj in the Rangpur district, Bholahat in the Malda district, the Alipur Duars and Kumargaon in the Jalpaiguri district, Madhupur in the Mymensingh district, Rupganj and Serajdikhan in the Dacca district and at Serail in the Tippera district; construction of family quarters for one Sub-Inspector and two head constables and a pucca well in the Police-station at Singra (Rajshahi); improvements to the residences of the Superintendent of Police at Jalpaiguri; and the Inspector of Police at Nilphamari in the Rangpur district and to the Police Lines at Jalpaiguri; sinking a masonry well in the Police Lines at Malda; reconstruction of some of the Police buildings of the Military Police Lines in Peelkhana at Dacca and providing electric lights and fans in the Military Police Lines in the same place. Construction of the Police buildings at Mukshudpur was started. Materials for the Police buildings at Sadarpur were collected.

The following works were taken in hand and completed during the year :—

Construction of servants' quarters, stable and latrine in the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Dinajpur; double sets of temporary quarters for the Police Training College at Sardah and a hajat attached to the Circle Inspector's office at Siliguri; raising the plinth of the Kotwali Police-station at Rangpur; additions to the Police barracks near the thana building at Darjeeling; construction of cook sheds on a fresh site in the compound of the Constables' Training School at Dacca; replacing bamboo shingle of the roof of the married men's barrack of the Military Police at Peelkhana, Dacca, by local tiles; thorough repairs and additions and alterations to the old hospital building purchased for the Kotwali Police-station at Mymensingh; construction of Police investigating centres at Chur Bhadrason, Kalkini and Rajore in the Faridpur district and at Sonagazi in the Noakhali district; construction of Deputy Inspector-General of Police's office at Barisal; construction of a new Kotwali police-station at Chittagong; construction of family quarters for the Circle Inspector at Chandpur.

Public Works Buildings.

424. The following works were completed:—

Construction of Sub-overseer's quarters at Natore; construction of new Public Works Department godown and inspection room at Serajganj; construction of Public Works Department godown at Naogaon and Rajshahi; dismantling the existing latrine and erecting a new four-seated service latrine for the peon's quarters at Khud side, Darjeeling; improvements in the office of the Executive Engineer, Duars Roads Division at Jalpaiguri, and the construction of a godown and workshed with quarters for the staff at Jalpaiguri.

The following works were in progress:—

Extension of the office of the Executive Engineer, Duars Road Division at Jalpaiguri and the construction of quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to the Public Works Department Dispensary at Tista Bridge.

Miscellaneous.

425. Construction of the Government Research Tannery at Tangra was completed. Construction of the office of the Bengal Survey Department at Chetla was in progress. The first floor of the Town Hall, Calcutta, was rented from the Calcutta Corporation and fitted up for the Reformed Council Chamber. Brick field at Akra was leased out to a private concern on a ten

years' lease. Land was acquired for the proposed residential buildings of officers of various departments at Asansol. Temporary water-supply and the principal roads in Hijli and Jhargram were in progress. The Inspection Bungalow at Jhargram and the Dâk Bungalow at Hijli were completed. The construction of office and quarters for the Special Officer in charge of the Co-operative Societies in the Rajshahi Division at Naogaon was completed.

COMMUNICATIONS.

426. The following works which were in progress in the previous year, were completed during the year under report:— Darjeeling.

(*i*) Reconstruction of the bridge over the Setijhora at the 18th mile of the Tista Valley Road.

(*ii*) Survey of the new Testa-Kalimpong Road and of Lachen Road.

The survey of a road from Namsu to a point on the Ghoom Sinanabasti Road near Ghoom and from Takdah to Reang was taken in hand and completed.

The widening and regrading of the road from Ghoom to Sukiapukri was in progress during the year.

427. In connection with the development of Kalimpong as a Hill Station progress was made in the construction of the following roads:— Kalimpong.

(*a*) Cart Road.

(*b*) West Rickshaw Road (starting from the third quarter of the 1st mile of the Upper Cart Road and meeting with the Ridge Road at the Chowrasta).

The following works were completed in the year under review:—

(1) Survey of the roads detailed below and cutting of a 3-feet trace along the alignment:—

(*i*) Four thousand feet contour road round Durpindanda spur.

(*ii*) Two rickshaw roads from the site of the proposed club to meet the contour road on either side of the spur.

(*iii*) One motor road connecting the Chowrasta site with the Circuit House (Ridge Road).

(2) Construction of masonry level pillars on the traces of the proposed East and West Rickshaw Ridge and 4,000 feet contour roads.

428. The programme of road construction to be followed in this area is laid down in the minute by Sir John Cumming of the 15th November 1919, which has been accepted as the considered opinion of the Government of Bengal. On the representation of the Duars Planters' Association, it was decided that it would not be possible for Government to give any assurance that the roads which were of importance primarily to "tea interests" and only in the secondary degree to the general administration would be constructed and improved for some years unless those interests were prepared to secure priority by making a contribution of half the cost. In the absence of any contribution by the tea companies concerned the amount of work done was limited only to the allotment for the year sanctioned by Government. Duars Jalpaiguri.

The following works were in progress:—

(*a*) Construction of the Dalgaon-Lankapara Road, II Section.

(*b*) Improvement and metalling of the Barnes-Mainaguri Road.

(*c*) Improvement and metalling of the Latiguri-Mainaguri Road.

(*d*) Improvement and metalling of the Mainaguri-Dhupguri Road.

In connection with the project (*d*) steel work was purchased during the year for the construction of a large major bridge over the Jaldhaka river, but unfortunately funds did not permit of construction being taken in hand during the year.

Progress was also made with the renewal of wooden bridges in the Duars by permanent masonry and steel bridges. At the present rate of progress it is expected to eliminate all wooden bridges in the course of the next five years.

Dinajpur. 429. The metalling of the first 8½ miles of the Hilli-Balurghat Road was in progress.

Midnapore. 430. A high flood occurred in the Cossye river in July 1920, causing slight damage, which was repaired, to the Raneegunge and Chandinabazar roads and to the bridges on them.

Calcutta Maidan. Roads. 431. The Eden Garden Road was widened and a footpath added to it.

A jhama-metalled road connecting the southern boundary of the Victoria Memorial ground with Lower Circular Road was also constructed.

The question as to whether asphaltum, which has been adopted by the Corporation of Calcutta for their roads, should not be substituted for tarmacadam in treating the roads on the Maidan, engaged the attention of Government, and it was decided to experiment by trying different methods of laying tar-macadam on certain roads. When the results of these experiments are known, it will be possible to come to a decision in the matter.

ARBORICULTURE.

Arboriculture. 432. Arboricultural operations along roads in charge of the Public Works Department were carried out as far as funds permitted.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta. 433. The site of the old Presidency Jail was cleared and levelled for the Victoria Memorial Gardens.

Improvements were also made to the central portion of the Curzon Gardens.

Arboriculture. 434. The question of beautifying the Calcutta Maidan engaged the attention of Government, and it was decided to put in hand a scheme for the proper maintenance of the existing trees and for planting others where necessary. The late Mr. G. Girard, an Arboricultural Expert and President of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, was accordingly appointed by Government to undertake a survey and to draw up a report and submit proposals for bringing the existing avenues and groups of trees to a proper condition with a programme for future planting.

Jalpaiguri. 435. The reclamation of marshy land near the Karla Bridge at Jalpaiguri was completed.

Rajshahi. 436. The work of repairing the revetment for protecting the bank of the river Ganges at the Surdah Police Training College and of filling up the eastern end with stone boulders, which was taken up last year, was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 38,819. As the earthen bank below the revetment consisted of loose soils, an estimate amounting to Rs. 24,910 was sanctioned in order to protect it with pucca revetment further down for a length of 455 feet. This work was in progress at the close of the year.

Pabna. 437. The construction of a revetment for a length of 1,650 feet for the protection of the town of Pabna from the erosion of the Ganges (Padma), was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,92,286. This work checked the erosion to a great extent, but during a flood some erosion took place in the unprotected bank between the lower end of the revetment and the junction of the Ganges with the Icchamutti. To prevent further erosion an estimate amounting to Rs. 94,965 was sanctioned for protective works which were in progress at the close of the year.

The main revetment was also badly damaged by flood, and an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,23,875 was sanctioned for making this good. The work was in progress.

Khulna. 438. The construction of spurs to protect the bank of the river Bhairab at Khulna which was in progress in the previous year was contemplated at a cost of Rs. 5,323.

439. There was very little erosion during the year. Protective measures were continued by throwing Gosnel's sausages, as was done in the previous year.

Barisal and Patuakhali.

440. The river bank above the Munsifi and opposite the District Board Inspection Bungalow eroded about 12 feet, and the bungalow had to be dismantled in consequence. No original or repair work was executed in connection with the existing protective work.

Madaripur.

441. There was practically no erosion at this place.

Gopalganj.

442. The erosion continued throughout the year. It was very high near the old Judge's house in comparison with other years.

Noakhali.

443. During the year the following licenses for the supply of energy were granted by the Government of Bengal under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910:—

Administration of the Electricity Act.

(1) "The Raniganj Coalfields Electric License, 1920," was granted to Messrs. Kilburn and Company of Calcutta.

(2) "The Bally-Uttarpara Electric License, 1920," was granted to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

(3) "The Serampore Electric License, 1920," was granted to Messrs. Nursing Sahay Madan Gopal of Calcutta.

(4) "The Burdwan Electric License, 1920," was granted to Messrs. J. C. Banerjee of Calcutta.

(5) "The Dooars Electric License, 1920," was granted to Messrs. Octavius, Steel and Company of Calcutta.

An application from Mr. M. C. Ghosal for the grant of a license under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, for the supply of energy within the Chittagong Municipality was under consideration during the year.

Sanction was accorded, under section 28 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to Messrs. Andrew Yule and Company, Managing Agents, Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to certain collieries in the district of Burdwan and Bankura.

An application was received from the Dacca Electric Supply Company, Limited, applying for sanction to extend the licensed area of supply to cover the Peelkhana, Dacca.

Under section 9 (*2*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the Hooghly-Chinsura Electric License, 1919, and the Serampore Electric License, 1920, were transferred and granted to the East Indian Electric Supply and Traction Company, Limited.

Sanction was given to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, to supply electric energy by the alternating current system to certain outlying areas.

444. The reconstruction of two out of six cattle sheds at Siliguri which were burnt down on the night of the 25th April 1919 was completed during the year 1919-20. An estimate amounting to Rs. 6,100 was sanctioned for the reconstruction of the remaining four sheds, but as desired by the Director-General of Military Works only two of the four remaining sheds were taken in hand and completed during the year.

Imperial Military Works.

Railways.

445. All the important lines of railway in the Province of Bengal are under the control of the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). The following light railways only are to some extent under the control of this Government:—

Administration.

	Gauge. Ft.	Gauge. In.	Length in miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2	0	51·00
(2) Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar to Tribeni)	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2	0	43·87

	Gauge.	Length in miles.
(4) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway	2 0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	2 6	52·24
(6) Jessore-Jhenidah Railway	2 6	36·75
Total		236·88

Mileage.

446. During the year no new railways were opened to traffic in the Presidency of Bengal; the total mileage open on 31st March 1921 was therefore the same as on 31st March 1920, *viz.*, 3,269·92 miles.

Surveys sanctioned.

447. During the year the following surveys were sanctioned by the Railway Board:—

By the agency of the Eastern Bengal Railway—

(1) A traffic reconnaissance survey of the proposed Magrahat-Kulpi-Kharee and Magrahat-Kakdwip Railways on the broad gauge.

(2) A traffic reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the broad gauge from Faridpur, a station on the Eastern Bengal Railway, *viâ* Bhanga to Barisal, a distance of about 84 miles.

(3) A preliminary survey to determine the best route for a line of railway on the metre gauge, between Purnea and Kissenganj, a distance of about 36 miles.

(4) A detailed survey for a line of railway on the broad gauge from the Churni Bridge on the Lalgola Branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway to Santipur, a distance of about 10 miles.

(5) A traffic reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the broad gauge from Naihati *viâ* Habra to Satkhira, a distance of about 45 miles.

New construction.

448. During the year no new construction was sanctioned by the Government of India (Railway Board) so far as this presidency is concerned.

Aerial Ropeways.

449. The position of the Government of India in the matter of ropeways has been modified by the Reforms Act and, under the division of functions, this subject has become provincial and transferred. Legislation therefore for the control of ropeways was taken up by this Government, and a bill on the lines of the one drafted by the Railway Board was under preparation for the purpose of authorising, facilitating and regulating the construction and working of aerial ropeways in Bengal.

Other important matters.

450. A committee was appointed to examine the problem of the construction of railways in the tract of country lying between the Padma and the Dhalleswari rivers in the district of Dacca. The report of the committee has not yet been submitted to Government.

Tube Railways in Calcutta.

451. In accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 14 and Chapter XII of the report of the committee appointed to consider the problem of rapid transportation to and from and in Calcutta a tube railway expert was appointed by the Government of India to collect the information necessary to formulate a report with estimates. Mr. Eric Ogilvie, who was sent out from England for the purpose, arrived in Calcutta on the 14th February 1921, and after collecting the necessary data for the preparation of the report left India sometime in June 1921.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1920-21.]

Capital and Revenue accounts.

452. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, for the year 1920-21, are exhibited in the following statement so far as

they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation :—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1920-21.	Expenditure to end of 1920-21.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1921.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges	4,12,41,281	16,45,315	1,26,48,030	2,85,93,251
Indirect charges	7,74,678	10,000	2,58,839	5,15,839
Total ...	4,20,15,959	16,55,315	1,29,06,869	2,91,09,090
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges	1,60,45,780	3,22,881	1,49,65,953	10,79,827
Indirect charges	2,74,742	5,916	2,33,548	41,194
Total ...	1,63,20,522	3,28,797	1,51,99,501	11,21,021

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.	2,99,760	2,55,785	13,506	2,69,291	30,469
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.	7,10,347	8,98,048	30,713	9,28,761	(–) 2,18,414
Works for which only revenue accounts are kept.	28,043	74,391	5,825	80,216	(–) 52,173
Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.	30,920	44,278	.....	44,278	(–) 13,358

453. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1920 :— **Irrigation.**

	Midnapore Canal (Major Works).			Eden Canal (Minor Works).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1920.	84,234	1,508	85,742	22,176	416	22,592
For 1920-21	89,316	1,750	91,066	22,928	80	23,008

Lenght of Canals.

454. The following statement shows the length of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1920-21 :—

	Midnapore Canal. Miles.	Eden Canal. Miles.
Main canal irrigation ...	... 53·00	27·5
Branch canal „ ...	... 16·75	
Distributaries of above ...	... 254·54	17·6
Navigable channels ...	... 69·75	...

Navigation.

455. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1920-21 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1920 :—

	Midnapore Canal.		Hijili Tidal Canal.		Calcutta and Eastern Canals.		Madaripur, Bil Route.		Orissa Coast Canal.		Nadia Rivers.	
	Average of the triennium ending March 1921.	For the year 1920-21.	Average of the triennium ending March 1921.	For the year 1920-21.	Average of the triennium ending March 1921.	For the year 1920-21.	Average of the triennium ending March 1921.	For the year 1920-21.	Average of the triennium ending March 1921.	For the year 1920-21.	Average of the triennium ending March 1921.	For the year 1920-21.
Length of canal open ... ... Miles	69¾	69¾	49¾	49¾	1,184	1,184	38	38	54½	54½	488½	488½
Receipts ... ... Rs.	44,046	40,370	68,530	61,372	3,99,650	3,65,011	3,34,347	314 963	13,809	12,444	15,547	13,282
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... Tons	431,190	468,907	263,012	236,269	1,194,058	1,013,613	958,983	1,025,096	119,981	104,335	79,315	8[illegible] 752
Estimated weight of cargo ... „	68,950	55,430	83,005	64,429	733,564	664,033	1,439,804	1,386,928	38,796	30,184	55,699	47,418
Estimat d value of goods ... ... Rs.	85,26,625	78,81,995	89,67,142	87,36,182	8,84,55,742	7,37,79,447	19,25,16,510	22,56,55,710	34,39,656	35,16,801	1,23,0[illegible],975	1,15,29,927
Estimated value of rafts ... ... „	18,983	38,000	9,247	5,035	99,388	1,94,474	5,083	4,292	42,043	50,075	75,273	1,06,756

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the discharges of certain rivers as shown below were recorded during the year under review :—

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

River Damodar.

Date.	Discharges in cusecs at—		
	Jujuti.	Hapushpur.	Jamalpur.
15th April 1920	607	429	523
29th „ „	320	222	...
30th „ „	...	...	164
8th May „	158	...	...
14th „ „	...	...	46
15th „ „	...	101	...
29th „ „	...	...	505
31st „ „	1,114	...	...
1st June „	...	1,034	...
13th „ „	...	...	92
14th „ „	246	...	...
15th „ „	...	380	...
30th „ „	8,451	6,967	3,582
14th July „	42,552	...	...
15th „ „	...	30,539	27,497
25th „ „	45,939	...	...
30th „ „	...	...	29,520

Date	Discharges in cusecs at—		
	Jujuti.	Hapushpur.	Jamalpur.
3rd August 1920	...	30,645	...
11th „ „	...	...	24,533
16th „ „	10,552	12,899	...
27th „ „	...	...	20,886
30th „ „	9,930	...	...
1st September „	...	11,415	...
15th „ „	18,983	52,225	25,383
29th „ „	9,031	...	...
30th „ „	...	16,445	10,523
7th October „	...	...	3,429
8th „ „	3,070	3,350	...
15th „ „	3,000	3,650	1,946
21st „ „	1,462	...	1,754
22nd „ „	...	1,231	...
29th „ „	...	...	977
31st „ „	750	1,301	...
14th November „	...	...	875
15th „ „	...	950	...
16th „ „	318	...	...
29th „ „	...	...	644
30th „ „	313	658	...
14th December „	...	521	...
15th „ „	...	...	600
16th „ „	178	...	...
30th „ „	...	...	427
31st „ „	240	477	...
15th January 1921	...	408	396
18th „ „	267	...	...
31st „ „	884	1,119	957
15th February „	450	331	376
27th „ „	...	238	...
28th „ „	323	...	311
15th March „	189	170	175
30th „ „	...	...	68
31st „ „	81	90	...

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Statement showing the observed discharges of the rivers in the Birbhum district for the year 1920-21.

Name of rivers.	SEPTEMBER 1920.					OCTOBER 1920.				
	Maximum Discharge.		Minimum Discharge.		Average Discharge	Maximum Discharge.		Minimum Discharge.		Average Discharge
	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Quantity in cusecs.
More (*a*) ...	10th	66,243	27th	619	4,658	18th	1,102	3rd	389	311
Brahmini (*b*) ...	10th	21,332	30th	108	1,626	3rd	322	2nd	85	101
Bangloe (*b*) ...	10th	28,369	27th	81	2,031	20th	1,251	8th	41	109

(*a*) The course of the river did not change during the observation period and therefore there has been no shifting of gauges. One gauge washed away in high flood was replaced by a new one.

(*b*) The course of the river did not change so there was no shifting of gauges. Owing to excessive flood in the rivers, three gauges were washed away and were replaced by new ones on the next day. During flood, observations were recorded from flood posts fixed on the bank of the river.

456. The classification of works dealt with in this review is as follows :—

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation. Works.

Account—" 49—Major Works."—In this class are included the Midnapore Canal, the Hijili Tidal Canal and the Grand Trunk Canal. The Hijili Tidal Canal is used for navigation only and the Midnapore Canal provides both for irrigation and navigation. The capital account of these two canals has been closed and all further capital outlay was charged against the head " 43—Minor Works and Navigation." The Grand Trunk Canal was under construction during the year under review. No revenue account has therefore been opened as yet. The revenue accounts of the other two canals have been shown under " 41—Major Works—Working Expenses."

Account—" 43—Minor Works and Navigation."—(*i*) The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept are the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bil route. These are intended for navigation. (*ii*) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers, the Gaighatta and Baxi Khal and a part of the Orissa Coast Canal. The Magra Hat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district which has been carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act is also included under this head. (*iii*) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept are—(*a*) the Eden Canal which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried out for the conservancy of the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

This classification has since undergone great changes by the order of the Government of India.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital outlay.

457. A sum of Rs. 202 for works was expended during the year on the collection of materials for the construction of a permanent outlet in the Lachmapore Subdivision. The total outlay (direct charges) debitable to the capital account during the year was Rs. 244, and the total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year was Rs. 83,11,129.

Rainfall.

458. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 60;69 inches as compared with 64·34 inches of the previous year.

Irrigation.

459. The area irrigated from the canal was 91,066 acres against 89,692 acres during the year 1919-20.

The cash realisation on account of water-rates during the year was Rs. 1,75,231 against a total demand of Rs. 1,80,284, including the arrears of the previous year. The amount remitted during the year was Rs. 1,225 as compared with Rs. 2,357 in the preceding year. The balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 3,828 as against Rs. 3,364 at the end of the previous year.

The heavy balance of water-rates remaining uncollected is attributable to the poor outturn of crops in some villages due to damage done by the abnormal accumulation of water in the low lands under Range III caused by the breach of the Cossye Embankment, and some villages having come under lease at the end of the irrigation season, their assessment was made at the end of the collection season. The collection of water-rates was, however, satisfactory, the percentage of realization being 98·04 per cent. as compared with 97·9 per cent. of the previous year.

Navigation.

460. The navigation receipts during the year were less than those of the previous year, being Rs. 40,370 as compared with Rs. 42,329 during the year 1919-20. This small decrease is due to the volume of traffic being less than that of the previous year, owing to local conditions.

461. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,36,136 and Rs. 2,40,712, respectively, as against Rs. 2,39,935 and Rs. 1,90,956 in the preceding year. The balance of net revenue for the year under review is Rs. (−) 4,576. Financial results.

The expenditure during the year on extensions and improvements was Rs. 470 as compared with Rs. 164 of the previous year. This outlay was incurred chiefly on the construction of a wooden bridge over distributary No. 6 in the Lachmapore Subdivision.

The expenditure under the head " Repairs " was Rs. 1,35,313 as compared with Rs. 1,05,241 of the previous year, and is briefly detailed below:—

	Rs.
Main canal and branches	42,255
Distributaries	77,332
Drainage and protective works	14,123
Special tools and plant	1,603

The increase is due to an expenditure of Rs. 51,610 incurred on the silt clearance of the Midnapore Canal from the 1st to the 4th reach of the canal, also to the outlay of Rs. 18,086 on the work of rebuilding the lower wing walls of the north abutment of the Midnapore Anicut.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

462. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 63,624 and Rs. 28,579, respectively, as against Rs. 79,118 and Rs. 29,335 in 1919-20. The decrease in gross receipts is due to the floods of July and August 1920 and to the depression in the trade during the latter part of the year 1920-21. The net balance revenue for the year under review is Rs. 35,045. Hijili Tidal Canal.

Grand Trunk Canal.

463. The project for the Grand Trunk Canal has been classed as a Major Work, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,09,00,000. The principal object aimed at in the project is to give a more direct route between the Hooghly at Calcutta and the rivers in East Bengal. The channel will be excavated by dredgers; for this purpose a dredger, the " Ronaldshay," is under construction in England. Grand Trunk Canal.

The total capital outlay on the project during and up to the end of the year 1920-21, chargeable to "49—Irrigation" amounted to Rs 17,86,096 as detailed below:—

	Rs.
Land, works, and special tools and plant	7,13,653
Establishment	43,800
Ordinary tools and plant	11,238
Dredger " Ronaldshay," etc.	10,17,405
Total ...	17,86,096

The introduction of the Reforms in Bengal has necessitated further capital outlay on the project to be met from Provincial loans.

All works in connection with this project, except those for which Government have committed themselves, have since been held in abeyance, pending further examination on the produce aspect of the project, taking into consideration the increased cost of land and works which will cause a large excess on outlay over the sanctioned estimate and the increased receipts over estimated return.

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MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

Capital account.

464. A sum of Rs. (—) 77,791 (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the canals was expended during the year inclusive of a credit of Rs. 80,175 on account of the hire of the dredgers "Foyers" and "Alexandra."

The principal items of expenditure are detailed below:—

(*a*) The cost of excavating a channel between the Kankrabunia Khal and Channel creek to the south of the Doagra channel in the Sundarbans Steamer Route. The outlay of the year was Rs. 4,819 and the work was practically completed.

(*b*) The cost of two coal tugs.

(*c*) The cost of two coal barges, Nos. B I and B II.

(*d*) The cost of two coal barges, Nos. A I and A II.

Navigation receipts.

The total outlay on these tugs and barges during the year was Rs. 11,712.

465. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,65,011 as compared with Rs. 3,80,101 in the preceding year. The decrease is due to less transport of jute during the year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,93,449 and Rs. 7,93,822, respectively, as compared with Rs. 3,80,101 and Rs. 4,53,867 in 1919-20.

This result shows a deficit of Rs. 4,00,373 against a deficit of Rs. 3,62,370 in the preceding year.

The more important items on which expenditure was incurred during the year are briefly noted below:—

	Rs.
(1) Reconstruction of the Kidderpore Bridge	1,65,030
(2) Construction of a sluice at Samookpota	20,184
(3) Construction of lock, sluices and diversion channel in the Kaorapukur Khal	39,695
Maintenance and repairs—	
(1) Silt clearance from the bed of the Doagra channel ... (Dredger "Foyers" was employed on this work and 8,663,600 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a cost of Rs. 52,371, working out to a rate of Rs. 6·04 per 1,000 c. ft. The work is completed.)	53,699
(2) Dredging shoals of the Attrabanka river ... ... (Dredger "Foyers" was employed on this work and 3,154,900 c. ft. of earth was dredged, working out to a rate of Rs. 4·63 per 1,000 c. ft. The work is completed.)	14,599
(3) Dismantling and removing the wrecked steam snag boat "Dehri" from the river Bhairub	4,505
(4) Blowing up the wreck of the flat "Kaldiya" of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company in the Attrabanka river	6,703
(5) Blowing up the wreck of the flat "Edinburgh" belonging to the Bengal-Assam Steamship Company, Limited, in the Attrabank river	6,761
(6) Changing cross girders of the Ultadanga bridge ...	13,271
(7) Cyclone damage repairs to rustic and remodelled bridges on the Eastern Canals from Assasuni to Barisal ...	8,345
(8) Upkeep of the marks and buoys in the Sunderbans Steamer Route	7,458
(9) Repairs to "Foyers" and "Alexandra" under "5—Special Tool and Plant"	1,18,469
(10) Bonus to dredger officers	145

Madaripur Bil Route.

Capital account.

466. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the capital account was Rs. 4,00,672, of which Rs. 3,32,798 represents the outlay on works. This sum was spent chiefly on widening and deepening the Madaripur Bil Route between Haridaspur and Fatteypore, a length of 20 miles, to a bed width of 275 feet which was started from the previous year and was in progress during the year. The expenditure incurred on this work during the year was Rs. 3,30,009. The dredgers " Foyers " and " Alexandra " were employed on this work for a period of 146 and 321 days, respectively, and 23,128,332 cubic feet and 21,328,732 cubic feet, respectively, of earth were dredged at a total cost of Rs. 2,92,965, working out to a rate of Rs. 6·59 per 1,000 cubic feet, exclusive of cost of land and bunds.

The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of 1920-21 amounted to Rs. 52,90,731 against the estimate of Rs. 61,19,668 sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The completion report of the project received the approval of the Secretary of State in June 1919. The construction estimate has been closed with effect from the 31st March 1917, and the remaining works are being carried out under the rules governing expenditure chargeable to open capital account.

Financial Results.

467. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively Rs. 3,16,898 and Rs. 1,34,939 against Rs. 3,41,688 and Rs. 1,30,192 in the year 1919-20. The decrease in receipts is attributable to the conveyance of cargoes at through rates, which are less than the local rates and to the less transport of jute owing to dullness of the jute market.

The following works of importance were carried out under the head " Maintenance and Repairs " during the year:—

	Rs.
(1) Dredging the spit in the 33rd mile of the Lower Kumar river	19,293
(Dredger " Alexandra " was employed on this work and 1,901,560 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a cost of Rs. 21,381, working out to a rate of Rs. 11·24 per 1,000 c. ft. The work was in progress.)	
(2) Silt clearance of the siding at Boltalihat and the boat dock on the south bank of the Madaripur Bil Route ...	3,929
(Dredger " Foyers " was employed on this work and 846,500 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a cost of Rs. 3,929, working out to a rate of Rs. 4·64 per 1,000 c. ft. The work was completed.)	
(3) Protecting by stone dumping the country side apron of all the sluices and embankments in the Madaripur Bil Route	8,970
(4) Cyclone damage repairs to embankments, locks, sluices, escapes, etc., in the Madaripur Bil Route	44,128
(5) Construction of the retired line of embankment from Haridaspore to Mussalmanpara sluice	2,823

Orissa Coast Canal.

Orissa Coast Canal.

468. This canal, which is intended for navigation only, lies partly in this Presidency (24·5 miles) and partly in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. It has been decided that each Government will deal with the lengths lying within their territorial limits. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 13,236 and Rs. 7,691, respectively, as against Rs. 16,512 and Rs. 10,728 in the previous year.

Gaighatta and Buxi Khal.

Gaighatta and Buxi Khal.

469. The collection of tolls on boat traffic has been leased out for three years from the 15th May 1919 at a rental of Rs. 4,700 per annum. The

rent realised from the lessee during the year was, however, Rs. 1,200, as compared with Rs. 2,300 of the previous year. No amount had to be spent on the upkeep of the khal during the year.

Eden Canal.

Eden Canal.

470. The area irrigated from this system of canals was 23,008 acres as compared with 20,799 and 20,539 acres in the two preceding years. The gross revenue derived during the year was Rs. 30,981 as compared with Rs. 26,918 of the preceding year. The expenditure on working expenses amounted to Rs. 44,278 as detailed below:—

	Rs.
New works	1,971
Maintenance and repairs	22,926
Establishment	18,197
Tools and plant	1,184
Total ...	44,278

as compared with Rs. 38,593 in the preceding year.

The increase is mainly due to a greater expenditure having been incurred on the construction of a sand dam at Jujuti, viz., Rs. 10,779.

Improvement of the Bidyadhari river.

Bidyadhari, River.

471. Work in connection with the improvement of the river by creating a spill reservoir for the reception of water during flood tides was still in progress during the year. An expenditure of Rs. 6,61,900 was incurred to end of the year against the sanctioned revised estimate of Rs. 8,05,515, a sum of Rs. 5,896 being spent during the year. Certain subsidiary works in connection with this project were also carried out during the year at a cost of Rs. 41,518. The revenues realised from this project during the year on account of rent of fisheries, land etc., aggregated Rs. 12,310.

Floods.

472. The year under review was marked by unusually high floods in the rivers Cossye, Selye and Subornarekha in July and August 1920, causing a large number of breaches in the embankments of the Cossye Division. The breaches were filled up during the year. There were 15 floods in the Damodar river, the highest of which occurred on the 22nd July 1920, the maximum gauge reading at Edilpur being 17 feet 3 inches. The flood precautionary measures were strictly enforced and due arrangements were made to protect the left bank of the Damodar river. Practically there was no loss of crops. There were three freshets in the Ajai river during the year, but no damage was done to the embankment, nor was there any loss of crops.

Anti-malarial projects.

Anti-malarial projects.

473. Works classified under "Anti-malarial," which are in charge of the Public Works Department, are in reality sanitary drainage schemes undertaken for the purpose of regulating the surface level of fresh water on the land with the object of serving the double purpose of securing the crops and submerging the land to destroy the breeding grounds of the anopheles mosquito. Given suitable regulating works, complete control of the water can be secured, so that the surplus is drained away and sufficient is retained to suit the requirements of agriculture. During the year under review the *Banka Anti-Malarial Project* near Burdwan, which was completed in 1919-20, was under operation and the result was completely satisfactory, as this project enabled a full crop to be raised even on the lowest lands. The Saraswati Project in the district of Howrah, the Monikhali and Baragachi Projects in the district of the 24-Parganas were under construction and practically completed

during the year. These works having been carried out at the cost of Government. Fair progress was made on the *Arul Bil Project* in the district of Jessore during the year, the progress might have been better but for the difficulty in obtaining coal for brick burning. Fair progress was also made on the *Nowi-Sunthee Project* in the district of the 24-Parganas. Some progress was made on the Amta Scheme in the district of Howrah, but it was slow owing to labour troubles and difficulty in obtaining coal. Some work was done during the year in connection with the *Jaboono Project Section II* in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore. The *Pichaboni and Amirabad Projects* in the district of Midnapore were under construction during the year under review and fair progress was made.

Surveys and Investigations.

474. *Baitgachi Gong, 24-Parganas.*—Survey operaion was in progress and nearly completed during the year. **A Tidal survey of the lower delta.**

Ronkini Doho.— Surveys have practically been completed and enquiries are proceeding.

Harihar-Mukteswari, Jessore district.—The project was further investigated during the year and the data are now nearly ready for the preparation of a detailed estimate.

Bhairab, Jessore district.—Investigations on Section I were completed during the year and ready for the preparation of a scheme. The question of the design and alignment of Section II is under consideration.

Jhenidah Basin, Jessore district.—The basin was surveyed and observations were carried out during the year.

Kodla Betna, Jessore district.—Some surveys and gauge readings were taken and completed during the year.

Arapanch Project, 24-Parganas.—The work was started and preliminary arrangements for the excavation of the channel, burning bricks, etc., were made during the year.

Dhunia, Midnapore district.—This was under investigation during the year.

Bullee Bil 24-Parganas.—The project was prepared and is under consideration.

Gangakhali Soadighi, Midnapore district.—The project was sanctioned but work on it was not started.

Tamluk Mohisadal Project, Midnapore district.—The survey was completed and rough estimate was under preparation during the year.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

475. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia rivers remained the same as in the previous year. These are as detailed below:— **Nadia rivers.**

		Miles.
1.	Furracca channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
2.	Bhagirathi river from the Bhagirathi entrance at Bishwanathpur to Nadia	132
3.	Bhairab Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	163½
4.	Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly ...	136
5.	Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction	32
	Total ...	488½

In addition to the above a length of 10 miles of the river Gorai from its off-take from the Ganges down to Kushtia and the river Ganges from Rajmehal to Goalundo, a distance of 152 miles, are comprised within the charges of the

Nadia Rivers Division, but are not included under the head "Nadia Rivers." The Gorai has now been declared under the Canals Act.

No capital account is kept.

The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 13,377 and Rs. 72,525, respectively, as against Rs. 13,874 and Rs. 59,898 in the preceding year.

A brief description of the rivers comprised in the Nadia Rivers system is given below.

Bhagirathi river.

476. This river is 157 miles in length from the Furracca off-take down to Nadia, the length below Nadia down to its junction with the river Mathabhanga being known as the Hooghly. The first 25 miles is a *sota* (spill channel) of the Ganges called the Furracca channel; the next reach of 68 miles from below Biswanathpur to Dadpur is known as the Upper Bhagirathi, and the remaining reach of 64 miles down to Nadia is known as the Lower Bhagirathi. The Lower Bhagirathi is again divided into (*a*) the upper reach from Dadpur to Katwa, and (*b*) the lower reach from Katwa to Nadia. The Bhagirathi is not now used for navigation by steamers with regular service. On the Upper Bhagirathi ordinary boat traffic was maintained throughout the year up to Azimgunge and through traffic up to the end of September 1920. On the Lower Bhagirathi the steamer service commenced from July 1920 and continued till the middle of September 1920. Boat traffic continued throughout the year. Five shoals with an aggregate length of about 7,500 feet were trained during the year as against 22 shoals and 64,400 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

The minimum depth of water in the river at the end of March 1921 was—

Reach of river.	Least depth of water sounding.			Width of channels.
	1919.	1920.	1921.	
	Ft. In.	Ft. In.	Ft. In.	
Entrance from Ganges	...	...	...	More than 25 feet.
Thence to Geria	...	...	0 2	
Geria to Jangipur	...	...	...	
Jangipur to Berhampore	1 0	1 0	0 3	
Berhampore to Katwa	1 0	1 0	1 0	
Katwa to Nadia	1 6	1 0	1 0	

Bhairab-Jalangi river.

477. The river, which takes off from the Ganges about 7 miles below the present Lalgolaghat railway station and falls into the Bhagirathi at Nadia, is divided into two parts, *viz.*—

(*a*) the Bhairab from the off-take down to Muktearpur,

(*b*) the Jalangi from Muktearpur to Nadia, a distance of 103½ miles.

No steamers plied on this river during the year, but boat traffic was maintained throughout the whole length from July to October 1920. Twenty-two shoals with an aggregate length of 39,000 fett, were trained as against 24 shoals and 37,340 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

Mathahhanga river.

478. The Mathabhanga river which bifurcates from the river Ganges at a point 5 miles above the village Jalangi and falls into the river Hooghly at Chakdah, is divided into two portions. The first portion called the Upper Mathabhanga river is 16 miles long and runs from the entrance to Munshiganj. The second portion called the Lower Mathabhanga, runs from Munshiganj to Chakdah. In the Upper Mathabhanga, 16 shoals measuring 22,800 running feet against 15 shoals measuring 22,600 running feet of the previous year formed, of which only 7 shoals measuring 8,600 running feet were trained against 6 shoals of 7,000 running feet of the previous year. No steamers plied during the year, but boat traffic was maintained from July to October 1920, after which only small boats of moderate draught plied up to Shikerpur till January 1921. In the Lower Mathabhanga, 47 shoals formed this year; of these, three shoals were troublesome and bandalling works were done in these three shoals only. The total length trained was 1,500 running feet against 1,650 running feet of the last year. This portion of the river was navigable all the year round.

479. The training works in connection with the conservancy of the river Ganges were carried out during the year through the agency of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, under Government supervision, between Rajmahal and Goalundo; twelve shoals of about 44,560 running feet were trained as against 12 shoals in the previous year. The object of training these shoals by means of bandals is to maintain a navigable channel with a 6 feet depth of water. The cost of the season's operation to Government was Rs. 14,081 against Rs. 11,293 in the last year. **Ganges river between Rajmahal and Goalundo.**

480. As no suitable dredger was available, dredging operations were not done during the year, but attempts were made to improve the entrance only by means of bandalling, which was commenced in the first week of October 1920 and abandoned at the end of November 1920. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 4,229 against Rs. 8,689 in the previous year. **The entrance to the Bhagirathi river from the Ganges.**

481. During the year under review discharge observations were taken of the rivers Bhagirathi, Bhairab-Jalangi and Mathabhanga at a cost of Rs. 12,941 for works only against Rs. 11,713 of the previous year. The objects of these observations are (*i*) to determine the various sources from which the Hooghly derives its fresh water-supply, and (*ii*) to devise a means of improvement in the general regime of the river. **Discharge observation.**

482. The report of the committee appointed in February 1917 to adivse Government on the steps to be taken to carry out systematic observation of the changes in the Nadia Rivers, and also, if possible, to improve their conditions as navigable channels and as feeders for the Lower Hooghly is still under the consideration of Government as before. The only outcome of this report so far has been the constitution of a permanent Board with the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, as President, whose duty it will be to examine all important projects concerning either drainage, irrigation, sanitation or transport (by rail, road or waterways) which are likely to restrict the free flow of flood water. **Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers.**

483. The Girai takes off from the Ganges about 12 miles below the Hardinge Bridge at Sara. **The Gorai river.**

The entrance is not stable but of shifting character. In 1912 the entrance channel changed to its present position, and for some years gradually improved with the result that a much larger volume of water entered and passed down to the lower reaches where the river is called the Madhumati. Since the year 1916-17 considerable changes have taken place and a new channel called the Kalorkole has opened out. The bed of Kalorkole channel has risen since 1919 and the channel is silting up. But the right bank of the Ganges is being eroded to a considerable extent and in course of a few years more the Kalorkole channel may disappear and the main Ganges may flow through it.

484. There were no floods in any of the Nadia Rivers during the year **Floods.**

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

485. Training works were carried out in the channel of the river Ganges at Rampur-Boalia by means of bandalling operations in order to improve navigation and sanitary conditions and to maintain the water-supply of the town. The operations, which were started in the first week of November and closed by the end of April 1921, were successful. On the whole the channel was maintained in good condition throughout the year. There was neither any erosion of the bank of the river nor any stoppage of the steamer traffic. The total amount spent on the operation was Rs. 6,636, towards which the steamer companies and the District Board contributed Rs. 3,239. **Ganges river at Rampur-Boalia.**

EASTERN CIRCLE.

486. The works carried out during the year under report were— **Dhaleswari and Buri Ganga rivers.**

(*1*) Bandalling operation in the rivers Dhaleswari and Buri Ganga, and Spur works in the river Buri Ganga.

(*2*) Dredging operation in the river Buri Ganga at Postgolla.

(*3*) Maintaining gauges, etc.

The annual bandalling operations were carried out at a cost of Rs. 20,529. Twenty-four shoals were trained, *viz.*, 17 in the Dhaleswari and 7 in the Buri Ganga. The result of training operations was highly satisfactory, but that in the Buri Ganga was unsatisfactory owing to a considerable amount of discharge escaping through. The Postgolla shoal was dredged by the "Alpha" of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, and the Rivers Steam Navigation Company at a cost of Rs. 1,994. Three *sal bulli* spurs were erected above the off-take of the Ati *khal* and maintained properly throughout the season. No spur was erected at the entrance of the river Buri Ganga. The Ati *khal* itself has improved much. The total expenditure incurred on the spur works was Rs. 8,842. Several gauges were maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 2,070.

Embankment and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Works for 1920-21.]

Expenditure.

487 The expenditure on embankments including charges for establishment and tools and plant was Rs. 9,72,606 and that on drainage works amounted to Rs. 4,00,212.

Length of embankment.

488. There was an increase of 31 miles and 1,093 feet of embankment owing to the Gumti Embankment having been taken over by the Irrigation Department from the Tippera Raj and the Paitkara Raj in May 1920. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government during the year was 1,388 miles and 1,459 feet.

Surveys and Investigations.

489. The survey of the inundated area of the Damodar river, which was started in previous years, was fully completed during the year: a special survey was made during the year for constructing a proposed sluice in the 10th to 12th miles of the Dusaspur Circuit embankment for efficient drainage.

The survey of Dunea and Barenda Basins was completed in the previous year. Boring operations will commence during the next cold season.

The preliminary survey operations in connection with the investigation of a drainage scheme for Moyna and Sabong parganas was in progress during the year.

A contour survey in the districts of Murshidabad and Birbhum was completed with an expenditure of Rs. 3,750.

Levels for longitudinal and cross sections of the right embankment on the Gumti river in the district of Tippera were taken during the year.

Works undertaken under the provision of (a) the Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

490. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Barajolla drainage works were efficiently maintained at a cost of Rs. 15,771 as against an average of Rs. 11,300 which has been fixed for their maintenance. Maintenance and repairs to the drainage of the Berhampore Town and Bistupore Bil was done at an expenditure of Rs. 4,008. An expenditure of Rs. 1,442 was also incurred on the maintenance of the Gobra Nala and removing obstructions therein against Rs. 1,627 of the previous year.

(b) The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

491. The Arul Bil Scheme, Nowi-Sunthi Scheme, Jaboona Project and Amta Project have been started under the Sanitary Drainage Act. These schemes have been separately reviewed under the head "Anti-malarial Schemes." The Magra Hat Drainage Scheme was also carried out under this Act

(c) The Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

492. The Churial drainage works were maintained in good condition during the year at a cost of Rs. 2,002 against Rs. 516 of the previous year.

A large number of sluices in Schedule D Embankment were efficiently maintained at the cost of the estates benefited.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly described in the following summary which is divided for convenience into circles of superintendence.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

493. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1920-21 as compared wiht that of 1919-20 :— **Gross revenue.**

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Receipts.	1919-20.			1920-21.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal heads of Revenue—						
I.—Land Revenue ...	1,30,96	1,70,01	3,00,97	1,32,78	1,71,23	3,04,01
II. Opium	3,97,76	...	3,97,76	2,98,58	...	2,98,58
III.—Salt	1,38,59	...	1,38,59	1,40,10	...	1,40,10
IV.—Stamps	1,50,29	1,50,29	3,00,58	1,41,15	1,41,15	2,82,30
V.—Excise	...	1,81,49	1,81,49	...	1,96,68	1,96,68
VI.—Provincial rates ...	...	1,12	1,12	...	97	97
VII.—Customs ...	10,18,05	...	10,18,05	12,09,19	...	12,09,19
VIII.—Income-tax ...	7,77,57	1,73,69	9,51,26	6,23,75	2,17,27	8,41,02
IX.—Forest	...	20,51	20,51	...	21,85	21,85
X.—Registration ...	...	25,57	25,57	...	26,84	26,84
XI.—Tributes ...	68	...	68	68	...	68
Total ...	26,13,90	7,22,68	33,36,58	25,46,23	7,75,99	33,22,22
Receipts by Civil Department—						
XII. —Interest	11,12	6,11	17,23	10,95	6,13	17,08
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	...	12,94	12,94	...	14,96	14,96
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	15,10	15,10	...	15,07	15,07
XVII.—Police	...	2,85	2,85	...	3,66	3,66
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	...	12,89	12,89	...	16,13	16,13
XIX.—Education ...	...	9,96	9,96	...	11,10	11,10
XXA.—Medical	...	4 31	4,31	...	5,15	5,15
XXB —Sanitation ...	...	61	61	...	14	14
XXIA.—Agriculture ...	...	2,03	2,03	...	1,85	1,85
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous, etc.	...	20,16	20,16	...	10,12	10,12
Total ...	11,12	86,96	98,08	10,95	84,31	95,26
Miscellaneous—						
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,86	55	2,41	1,78	56	2,34
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	...	1,93	1,93	...	2,06	2,06
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	4,44	6,87	11,31	4,41	11,16	15,57
Total ...	6,30	9,35	15,65	6,19	13,78	19,97
Irrigation—						
XXIX.—Major Works (Direct Receipts)—Public Works.	1,60	1,60	3,20	1,50	1,50	3,00
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—						
Civil ...	29	29	58	32	32	64
Public Works Department.	4,31	4,31	8,62	4,17	4,17	8,34
Total ...	6,20	6,20	12,40	5,99	5,99	11,98
Building and Boards—						
XXXI.—Civil Works—						
Civil	...	1,41	1,41	...	1,54	1,54
Public Works Department.	1,38	5,69	7,07	1,25	6,14	7,39
Total ...	1,38	7,10	8,48	1,25	7,68	8,93
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.	- 9,87	+ 9,87	...	26.56	- 26,56	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	26,29,03	8,42,16	34,71,19	25,97,17	8,61,19	34,58,36

The varation are explained in the entries on Imperial and Provincial Finances.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Imperial receipts.

494. The following statement shows the Imperial Receipts in 1920-21 as compared with those of 1919-20:—

Major Heads.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,30,95,652	1,32,77,788	1,82,136	...
II.—Opium	3,97,76,146	2,98,57,846	...	99,18,300
III —Salt	1,38,59,449	1,40,10,216	1,50,767	...
IV —Stamps	1,50,28,942	1,41,14,587	...	9,14,355
VII.—Customs	10,18,04,893	12,09,18,805	1,91,13,912	...
VIII.—Income-tax	7,77,57,529	6,23,74,871	...	1,53,82,658
XI.—Tributes	67,701	67,701	...	...
XII.—Interest	11,11,741	10,95,053	...	16,688
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,85,569	1,78,222	...	7,347
XXV.—Miscellaneous	4,44,120	4,41,573	...	2,547
XXIX.—Major Works (Direct Receipts)—Public Works.	1,59,604	1,49,948	...	9,656
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
Civil	29,130	32,385	3,255	...
Public Works ...	4,31,234	4,17,357	...	13,877
XXXI.—Civil Works—Public Works...	1,38,023	1,24,660	...	13,363
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.	- 9,86,606	26,56,118	36,42,724	...
Total ...	26,29,03,127	25,97,17,130	2,30,92,794	2,62,78,791

The important variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes:—*Land Revenue.*—Sale of Government land to Calcutta Improvement Trust. *Opium.*—Smaller sales of opium chests at public auction and reduced sales of morphia in England. *Salt.*—Larger import. *Stamps.*—General depressions in Trade. *Customs.*—Larger imports of merchandise ordered from abroad when exchange was favourable. *Income-tax.*—Smaller collection of excess profits duty. *Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.*—Assignment made by this Government in connection with the new scheme of taxation.

Imperial Expenditure.

495. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1920-21 as compared with that of 1919-20:—

Major Heads.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks ..	45,63,447	49,14,787	3,51,340	...
2.—Assignments and Compensations	1,05,465	1,03,056	...	2,409
3.—Land Revenue	19,02,495	20,16,659	1,14,164	...
4.—Opium	31,899	33,545	1,646	...
5.—Salt	2,75,212	2,92,992	17,780	...
6.—Stamps	3,71,514	3,69,741	...	1,773
9.—Customs	13,94,796	17,29,010	3,34,214	...
10 —Income-tax	1,50,699	1,66,450	15,751	...
14.—Interest on other obligations ...	3.68,481	5,64,989	1,96,508	...
18.—General Administration ...	5,11,255	6,50,045	1,38,790	...
23.—Ecclesiastical	1,82,587	2,56,319	73,732	...
25.—Political	3,520	11,117	7,597	...
26B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Department.	2,720	55,360	52,640	...
27.—Territorial and Political Pension Allowance.	6,09,984	6,14,145	4,161	...
28.—Civil Furlough and Absentee ...	950	74	...	876
29.—Superannuation	73,011	75,641	2,630	...
30.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,05,495	1,13,598	8,103	...
32.—Miscellaneous	1,05,953	69,720	...	36,233
33.—Famine Relief	9,48,020	8,211	...	9,39,809
35.—Protective Irrigation Works ...	1,711	749	...	962
Carried over ...	...	...	...	...

Major Heads.	1919-20.	1920-21.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward ...	...	...	...	...
42.—Major Works—				
Interest on debt	1,99,294	2,17,499	18,205	...
Working expenses	1,04,864	1,28,288	23,424	...
43.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
Civil	1,031	1,159	128	...
Public Works	16,00,067	13,50,103	...	2,49,964
45.—Civil Works—				
Civil	5,000	5,000	...	...
Public Works	13,12,701	16,22,075	3,09,374	...
49. —Outlay on Irrigation Works ...	...	16,98,533	16,98,533	...
Total ...	1,49,32,171	1,70,68,865	33,68,720	12,32,026

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows:—*Refunds and Drawbacks.*—Larger payment of income-tax refunds. *Land Revenue.*—Increased expenditure on account of Survey and Settlement operations. *Customs.*—Revision of pay of preventive officers and appraisers and grant of temporary allowances to ministerial establishment to meet the changed economic conditions. *Interest on other obligations.*—Payment of interest on sums held by Government on behalf of non-enemy nationals. *General Administration.*—The revision of the pay of officers and establishment to meet the changed economic conditions. *Ecclesiastical.*—The revision of the pay of Chaplains. *Scientific and Miscellaneous.*—Expenditure on account of Census. *Famine Relief.*—There was no relief work in 1920-21. *Major Works—Interest on Debt.*—Interest on outlay due to the commencement of the construction of the Grand Trunk Canal from 1920-21. *Minor Works and Navigation—Public Works.*—Smaller capital expenditure in the Calcutta and Eastern Canal and the Madaripur Bhil route. *Civil Works—Public Works.*—Larger expenditure on new works. *Outlay on Irrigation Work.*—The work on the Grand Trunk Canal was started this year.

Land Revenue.

[See Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal, 1920-21.]

Revenue from Customs.

496. The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of 3·92 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported into Calcutta) amounted to Rs. 12,97,05,000 against Rs. 11,16,61,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 29,60,000 against 38,72,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 12,67,45,000 representing an increase of nearly 18 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

The gross import duties rose from Rs. 727·04 lakhs to Rs. 912·74 lakhs, of which Rs. 259·36 lakhs came from cotton goods and Rs. 120·72 lakhs (including inland collections from salt). The export duty collections fell off from Rs. 389·57 lakhs to Rs. 384·31 lakhs, the increase of Rs. 29·81 lakhs in the collections on jute being counterbalanced by a decrease of Rs. 21·64 lakhs under raw hides and skins and of Rs. 11·58 lakhs under tea.

Net revenue.

497. The net revenue of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 12,60,16,338 against Rs. 10,65,77,300 in the previous year representing an increase of a little more than 18 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports expanded from Rs. 31·22 lakhs to Rs. 32·73 lakhs, although there was a decline in export duty from Rs. 19·50 lakhs to Rs. 12·49 lakhs due to smaller shipments of tea.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

498. The number of cases dealt with under the Sea Customs Act was 1,848 against 610 in the previous year. Of these as many as 226 cases arose out of notices issued under section 32 of the Act as compared with 160 in the previous year. In 31 cases the goods were taken over on behalf of Government and the profits of their disposal in 22 cases amounted to Rs. 5,524. In addition 109 cases of misdeclaration of goods were detected and penalties imposed amounting to Rs. 724.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

499. There were altogether 1,663 cases of infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act during the year against 708 in the previous year. Of these 1,315 related to false trade-descriptions and 281 were in respect of improperly stamped piece-goods. The penalties imposed under this Act amounted to Rs. 20,065 as against Rs. 14,179 in the previous year.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1920-21.]

Salt credit system.

500. There was a substantial increase in the operations under the salt credit system. Securities to the extent of Rs. 95,46,400 were deposited during the year as compared with Rs. 76,33,025 in the previous year. The amount of duty debited during the year under the system was Rs. 1,25,87,227 against Rs. 1,09,48,287 in the previous year. There were 67 depositors during the year against 59 in 1919-20, and three of them closed their accounts.

Imports.

501. The total imports to Calcutta and Chittagong increased by 34·4 per cent. and 191·5 per cent respectively. There was a large increase in all qualities of salt imported to Calcutta with the exception of Port Said salt. There were no imports to Chittagong from the United Kingdom and from Massawah except table salt in bottles and packets. The total quantity imported into Chittagong, *viz.*, 1,741,238 maunds constituted a record, the largest figure previously being 1,726,122 maunds in 1915-16.

Consumption and prices.

502. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in this presidency during the year was 8,446,396 maunds. This was exclusive of 4,431,188 maunds, the net export by rail, road or river, but inclusive of 7,786 maunds issued free of duty for commercial purposes. The average wholesale price per maund of salt, inclusive of duty was 7 annas 3 pies lower than that in the previous year. The market prices of salt fell on an average by Rs. 50 per 100 maunds, the price of Kurkutch salt being about Rs. 5 lower than that of crushed salt. The average wholesale price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt was Rs. 130-0-7 as compared with Rs. 172-2-5 in the previous year. The restriction on the maximum retail prices of salt was withdrawn by Government with effect from the 1st December 1920.

Financial results.

503. As compared with the preceding year the receipts of the department show an increase of Rs. 1,50,766 or 1·08 per cent., and the charges an increase by Rs. 75,792 or 21·5 per cent. mainly due to the larger refunds of customs duty granted. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 1,35,82,042, which was larger than that of the previous year by Rs. 74,974 or 0·5 per cent.

Trade in saltpetre.

504. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement of saltpetre was 780 maunds as compared with 275 maunds in 1919-20, and the quantity of *sitta* (impure salt) left in the course of refinement was 366 maunds against 126 maunds to the previous year. There was no sale of educed salt during the year.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, 1920-21. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees.

505. On the advice of the Licensing Boards of Calcutta and its suburbs, the sites of 17 shops were changed. No other change was made either in the number or in the location of existing shops. In the areas outside the Calcutta district all the recommendations of the Excise Advisory Committees were carefully considered and mostly given effect to. In accordance with these recommendations 34 shops were abolished, sites of 48 shops changed and 19 new licenses sanctioned.

Revenue.

506. The total excise revenue was Rs. 1,96,33,317 against Rs. 1,81,08,448 for the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 15,24,869. The heads which showed an increase were country spirit (Rs. 8,89,794), wines and spirits, *i.e.*, foreign liquors other than beer, medicated wines and commercial spirits (Rs. 1,73,110), hemp drugs (Rs. 1,71,609), *pachwai* (Rs. 1,65,515), opium (Rs. 1,52,093) and *tari* (Rs. 16,439). Against this there occurred a decrease of Rs. 32,827 under "Commercial spirits, including medicated wines." As a net result, the incidence of exise revenue rose from 6 annas 4 pies to 6 annas 10 pies.

Country spirits.

507. The system of contract supply was the only system in force during the year. The number of shops decreased by 1, but the consumption increased by 11,287 proof gallons. Consumption increased in 16 districts and decreased in 11. Outside Calcutta the increase was considerable in Howrah (6,236 proof gallons) due to the opening of a good many brickfields and several jute mills, in Hooghly and the 24-Parganas (10,810 and 10,592 proof gallons, respectively) due to the increased prosperity of mill hands, in Murshidabad and Nadia (3,924 and 1,601 proof gallons, respectively) due to the influx of labourers in connection with brick-work, etc., in Bankura (9,353 proof gallons) due to the enormous business in lac, in Malda (2,676 proof gallons) owing to keen bidding and to the liking of Sonthals for cheaper liquor, in Midnapore (6,083 proof gallons) due to better supervision by the inspecting staff over the licensees, and in Khulna (621 proof gallons) due to the detection of malpractices indulged in by the vendors. The districts in which the decrease exceeded 10 per cent. were Jalpaiguri (27,217 proof gallons), Dacca (6,423 proof gallons), Rangpur (7,122 proof gallons), Burdwan (9,113 proof gallons) and Darjeeling (5,732 proof gallons). The decreases were due partly to the introduction of the Bengal fixed-fee system, partly to the picketing towards the end of the year and to local reasons, *e. g.*, the slump in work in tea-gardens in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, slump in the hide trade in Rangpur, increase in retail price in Burdwan and competition with cheap foreign liquor in Dacca and Mymensingh. The revenue derived from duty and distillery fees increased by Rs. 9,65,257 and that from license fees decreased by Rs. 75,463, the result being a net increase of Rs. 8,89,794.

Tari.

508. The tree-tax system, which was introduced in October 1918 in the Sadar and Serampore Subdivisions of the Hooghly district and the whole of the Howrah district (with the exception of the areas included in the Calcutta district), continued in the same areas.

The total number of licenses issued for the sale of fermented and fresh *tari* increased from 2,068 to 2,114 and the total receipts from Rs. 5,19,964 to Rs. 5,36,403.

Pachwai.

509. The total number of *pachwai* licenses issued was 36,222 as compared with 35,367 in 1919-20. The revenue from retail license fees increased from Rs. 7,98,938 to Rs. 9,60,834. The increase was most marked in Burdwan and Bankura. In the former district it was due to the successful working of the *pachwai* shops in the Asansol Subdivision under the Bengal fixed-fee system, whilst in the latter it was due to fair harvest during the year.

Foreign liquor.

510. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail sale of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and commercial spirits, was 727 against 597 in the preceding year. The total receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 3,22,358 against Rs. 3,01,869 in the previous year. The receipts from duty on potable foreign liquor manufactured in India were Rs. 10,35,077 against Rs. 8,82,456 in the preceding year, the increase being due to larger issues of Indian-made rum and the raising of duty on potable foreign liquor.

Ganja.

511. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,267 as compared with 1,263 in 1919-20. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 38,16,458 against Rs. 36,47,148 in 1919-20, showing an increase of Rs. 1,69,310. The total quantity of *ganja* consumed amounted to 1,841 maunds as compared with 2,052 maunds in 1919-20. Consumption decreased in 18 districts and increased in 9. The decrease exceeded 10 per cent. in five districts, *viz.*, Dacca, Noakhali, 24-Parganas, Midnapore and Khulna; and 20 per cent. in five other districts, *viz.*, Mymensingh, Darjeeling, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and Faridpur. Elsewhere the district in which a large decrease also occurred was Calcutta (23 maunds and 28 seers). The fall in consumption was due to higher price and stricter control under the Bengal fixed-fee system. The only districts in which the increase exceeded 20 per cent. was Dinajpur. The increase exceeded 3 maunds in the districts of Tippera, Rajshahi, Malda, Bogra and Murshidabad. These districts were under the auction system during the year, and the lower rate of retail price might, to some extent, be taken as the general cause of increase. The incidence of license fees per seer of *ganja* consumed was Rs. 30 and that of duty Rs. 20. The total taxation was Rs. 50 per seer as compared with Rs. 43;9 in the previous year.

Bhang.

512. The total consumption of *bhang* amounted to 780 maunds against 724 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,77,635 as compared with Rs. 1,61,477 in 1919-20.

Charas.

513. The number of retail licenses was 29, the same as in the previous year, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 67,693 as compared with Rs. 78,039 in 1919-20.

Opium.

514. The system under which the issue of opium to retail shops is restricted to the estimated local demand continued in the districts in which it had been enforced previously. It was extended to five more shops in Nadia during the year of report. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 835 as compared with 828 in the previous year. The quantity of opium consumed rose from 1,038 maunds to 1,066 maunds. Consumption increased in 17 districts and decreased in 9. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 34,00,913 as compared with Rs. 32,48,820 in 1919-20, an increase of Rs. 1,52,093 or 4·6 per cent., which occurred mostly under the head of "License Fees."

Cocaine.

515. The total number of licenses issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 321 as compared with 287 in 1919-20. Forty-three permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision, of which 16 were for tea-gardens in Jalpaiguri, and the remainder for charitable dispensaries in various parts of the presidency. Thirty-eight permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests made for illicit possession of cocaine was 277 against 324 in the previous year. The illicit trade in cocaine declined to some extent. In Calcutta, 130 ounces and 156½ grains were seized by Excise officers and 120 ounces by Customs officers as compared with 395 ounces and 20 grains and 123 ounces and 114 grains, respectively, in the previous year. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 18 lbs. 6 ounces and 106 grains as compared with 33 lbs. 3 ounces and 29⅞ grains in 1919-20.

Excise offences.

516. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the Excise and opium laws during the year was 6,183 as compared with 6,651 in the previous year, and 5,764 persons convicted against 6,038.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department for the year 1920-21. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Revenue.

517. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts fell from Rs. 3,13,15,702 in 1919-20 to Rs. 2,94,78,224 in 1920-21, a decrease of 5·9 per cent. This decrease occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps. The charges during the year amounted to Rs. 4,74,985 against Rs. 4,66,377 in 1919-20.

Judicial stamps.

518. The sale-proceeds from court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) fell from Rs. 1,78,21,873 in 1919-20 to Rs. 1,72,83,945. The decrease took place in the Burdwan, Presidency and Rajshahi division. but there was a slight increase in the Dacca and Chittagong divisions.

Non-Judical stamps.

519. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps fell from Rs. 1,23,78,741 in 1919-20 to Rs. 1,11,09,234. The sales in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions were below, and those in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions above, those of the previous year.

Sale of stamps.

520. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year 1920-21 was 5,438 against 5,235 in 1919-20, and the amount of discount allowed to such vendors increased from Rs. 4,42,148 in 1919-20 to Rs. 4,48,540.

Deficient duty.

521. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied under section 35 of Act II of 1899 came to 1,486 as against 1,891 in 1919-20, and the amount of duty and penalty realized fell to Rs. 10,481 as against Rs. 12,853. The total number of cases decided by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act rose from 3,430 in 1919-20 to 3,463, but the amount of duty and penalty realized fell from Rs. 79,546 to Rs. 54,208.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

522. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 243 against 346 in the preceding year, while 274 persons were brought to trial and 265 persons convicted, against 375 and 336, respectively. The fines imposed fell from Rs. 2,644 in 1919-20 to Rs. 2,435. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 856 against Rs. 841 in the previous year.

Working of Section 19 H of the Court-fees Act.

523. Of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probate and letters of administration reported during 1920-21, including those pending at the beginning of the year 61·8 per cent. were completely enquired into, against 59·3 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage borne by the deficit duty required to the amount originally realized was 6·9 against 11·7 per cent. in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for the year 1920-21.]

Amendment of the Income-tax Act, 1918.

524. The Income tax Act (VII of 1918) was amended by Acts XVII and XLIV of 1920. The chief effect of Act XVII was—(*a*) to fix a fresh rate of assessment for companies, and (*b*) to reduce the amount of tax payable by an assessee when the margin above a certain limit is small. Under the present Act a provisional assessment is first made on the income of the preceding year, and this assessment is subsequently adjusted and corrected when the income of the year in which the provisional assessment was made is ascertained.

Assessment.

525. The number of persons assessed to income-tax during the year was 37,598, while the amount of tax assessed at the preliminary assessment under section 18 was Rs. 3,78,23,241. After allowing cash refunds which amounted to Rs. 31,959 and taking into account Rs. 57,58,663 recoverable in consequence of adjustment under section 19, the total assessment came up to Rs. 4,35,49,915. The arrear income-tax collected during the year amounted to Rs. 62,15,069.

Collection.

526. The total collections were Rs. 4,27,62,401. Out of this, Calcutta contributed Rs. 4,00,54,074 as compared with Rs. 3,13,91,989 in the year 1919-20, the increase of Rs. 86,62,085 being attributed to larger profits derived by jute mills and other companies and the general briskness of trade.

Incidence of tax.

527. Only one person in 2,779 of the population outside Calcutta paid income-tax, and the average amount paid by each assessee was Rs. 174. In Calcutta which, for income-tax purposes, includes the town of Howrah, the proportion was one person in 57 of the population, and the average tax paid by each assessee was Rs. 2,139.

Super-tax.

528. The total net collections of super-tax under Act XIX of 1920 were Rs. 3,40,53,522 against Rs. 87,29,301 in the previous year, of which Calcutta contributed Rs. 3,37,13,708 or a little over 99 per cent. The increase in Calcutta, namely Rs. 2,51,78,403 was due to—(1) the abolition of the excess profits duty as it was optional for an assessee either to pay excess profit duty or super-tax; (2) a considerable increase in the number of assessment of companies, namely, 277 against 182 in 1919-20; and (3) big profits made in 1919-20.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Receipts and expenditure.

529. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1920-21 as compared with those of 1919-20 :—

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1919-20.	1920-21.		1919-20.	1920-21.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,70,01	1,71,23	1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	5,91	15,63
IV.—Stamps	1,50,29	1,41,15	2. Assignments and Compensations	1,40	1,36
V.—Excise	1,81,49	1,96,68	3. Land Revenue	38,12	54,85
VI.—Provincial rates	1,12	97	6. Stamps	3,71	3,70
VIII.—Income-tax	1,73,69	2,17,27	7. Excise	11,75	12,08
IX.—Forest	20,51	21,85	10. Income-tax	1,16	1,45
X.—Registration	25,57	26,84	11. Forest	9,72	13,37
XII.—Interest	6,11	6,13	12. Registration	12,94	15,01
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts	12,94	14,96	13. Interest on ordinary debt	5,09	5,28
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	15,10	15,07	18. General Administration	27,23	31,72
XVII.—Police	2,85	3,66	19A. Law and Justice—Courts of Law	1,07,07	1,31,25
XVIII.—Posts and Pilotage	12,89	16,13	19B. Law and Justice—Jails	38,25	39,01
XIX.—Education	9,96	11,10	20. Police	1,43,95	1,64,70
XXA.—Medical	4,31	5,15	21. Posts and Pilotage	26,70	14,96
XXB.—Sanitation	61	14	22. Education	98,23	1,08,37
XXIA.—Agriculture	2,03	1,85	24. Medical	30,14	36,99
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous	20,16	10,12	24B. Sanitation	14,12	12,58
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	55	56	25. Political	37	38
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,93	2,06	26A. Agriculture	16,47	17,24
XXV.—Miscellaneous Receipts—Public Works.	6,87	11,16	26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous	8,04	10,54
XXIX.—Major Works (Direct Receipts) Public Works.	1,60	1,50	29. Superannuation	36,72	38,73
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			30. Stationery	17,36	18,94
Civil	29	32	32. Miscellaneous	4,69	2,78
Public Works	4,31	4,17	33. Famine Relief	3,16	3
XXI.—Civil Works—			42. Major Works—		
Civil	1,41	1,54	Working Expenses P. W.	1,05	1,28
Public Works	5,69	6,14	Interest on debt	1,71	1,90
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.	9,87	26,56	43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
			By Public Works Department	16,00	13,50
			By Civil	1	1
			45. Civil Works—		
			Public Works Department	1,00,52	1,39,50
			Civil	11,80	11,04
Total	8,42,16	8,61,19	Total	7,94,18	9,18,83

530. The variations under *Land Revenue and Stamps* which are divided heads have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Excise* is mainly under the heads "country spirit" and "Liquors and spirits made in India after European method." The increase in the former case is due partly to larger consumption on account of high wages and larger earnings of mill hands owing to mill working for six days a week against four days a week last year, and partly to the progressive efficiency of the Excise Department in checking illicit distillation, dilution and other malpractices. The increase under the second head is due to increased issue of locally manufactured rum and rectified spirit, owing to the scarcity of Java and other imported spirits. *Income Tax.*—The better receipts are attributable to larger collections from business concerns. The increase under *Forest* is mainly the result of departmental operations on an extensive scale in the district of Darjeeling, and that under *Registration* is due to high prices of all staple foods, and, in fact, all necessaries of life. The improvement under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* is due to the sale of escheated property by the Administrator-General of Bengal, while that under *Police* is traceable to the realisation of fees under the Motor Vehicles Act, motor traffic being on the increase. Under *Ports and Pilotage* there was an increase in pilotage fees, while under *Education* the increase is mainly on account of the realisation of the Sanskrit Examination fees and the sale of the electric plant in the Dacca School of Engineering. Owing to the provision of additional accommodation in the Campbell Medical School and the provincialisation of the Mitford Hospital, Dacca, there was an increase in the receipts under *Medical.* The decrease under *Sanitation* is due to the fact that in the year 1919-20 an anonymous donor contributed Rs. 50,000, and that under *Scientific and Minor Department* is on account of a smaller demand for sulphate of quinine from the Military Department. The large increase under *Miscellaneous* was mainly due to recoveries on account of famine expenditure, and the increase under *Civil Works—Public Works* is on account of growth in the rent of buildings and also to larger receipts from the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. *Transfer between Imperial and Provincial.*—This has already been explained under Imperial Finance. Receipts.

531. The increase under Refunds and Drawbacks was due to larger refunds under section 19 of the Income-tax Act of 1918. The revision of pay of the members of the I.C.S. and the B.C.S. (Executive and Judicial) and the grant of a temporary allowance to ministerial officers to meet the increased cost of living led to the increase under the heads *Land Revenue and Law and Justice—Courts of Law.* The grant of temporary allowances to clerks caused the increase under *Excise* and that under *Forest* attributable to a larger expenditure in connection with the departmental operations, the justification for which is seen in the increase in revenue, and to the revision of the pay of the Forest officers. The increase in expenditure under *Registration* is due partly to the revision of the pay of the sub-registrars and their establishment and partly to larger expenditure on temporary establishment to cope with the increase in work which is reflected in the increase receipts, while that under *General Administration* is on account of expenditure in connection with the preparation of electoral rolls for the introduction of the Reforms Scheme and to the grant of temporary allowances to ministerial establishment. Larger purchases of raw materials and the revision of the pay of warders, head warders and matrons explain the increase under *Jails.* The revision of the pay of the Imperial Police and of the subordinate ranks and the supply at Government cost of a pair of dhuties per annum to each head constable and constable led to the increase under *Police.* The decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* is due to the fact that the contribution of Rs. 12,75,000 to the Chittagong Port Fund which was paid in 1919-20 was not repeated in 1920-21. The increase under *Education* is attributed to the revision of the pay of the members of the Indian and Provincial Educational Services, while that under *Medical* is due to the revision of the pay of the members of the I. M. S. and to larger grants to hospitals and dispensaries. Larger expenditure under *Diet, Clothing and Bedding* due to high price of foodstuffs and cloth also contributed to the increase under the latter head. Smaller grants for sanitary purposes owing to delay in the maturing of sanitary schemes, led to the decrease Expenditure.

under *Sanitation*. The expenditure under *Agriculture* rose in consequence of the increased activities of the department, while that under *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments* is due to larger expenditure by the Director of Industries which is a new department and is developing and to the extension of the area under cinchona plantation. Growth in pensionary charges due to the rise in salaries and increased rates of pensions to small pension holders have caused the increase under *Superannuation*, while the revision of the pay and piece rates of press employees and rise in the price of paper led to the increase under *Stationery and Printing*. The decrease under *Miscellaneous* is due to smaller expenditure under miscellaneous and unforeseen charges. The variations under *Famine Relief*, *Major Works—Interest on Debt*, *Major Works*, *—Working expenses*, *Minor Works and Navigation—Public Works*,—which are divided heads have been explained under the head *Imperial Finance*. Smaller contribution to local bodies led to decreases under *45—Civil Works —Civil* while the increase under *Civil Works—Public Works* is on account of larger capital outlay on works and to high prices of material and labour.

Local Funds.

Balances

532. The table below shows the actual receipts and charges and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the province for the year 1920-21 :—

Name of fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Fund	34,41,667	1,22,70,468	1,57,12,135	1,22,86,734	34,25,401
District Road Fund, Darjeeling	1,23,433	93,936	2,17,369	1,22,669	94,700
Union Funds—					
Birbhum	495	6,929	7,424	7,055	369
Burdwan	287	...	287	287	...
Midnapore	1,314	3,953	5,267	4,291	976
Jessore	3,767	10,684	14,451	10,550	3,901
Khulna	2,262	5,377	7,639	4,491	3,148
Murshidabad	1,623	3,214	4,837	3,895	942
Nadia	1,112	1,134	2,246	1,659	587
Faridpur	307	7,000	7,307	6 590	717
Dacca	1,662	12,306	13,968	10,309	3,659
Hooghly	...	3,400	3,400	...	3,400
Total ...	12,829	53,997	66,826	49,127	17,699
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	1,102	2,156	3,258	1,871	1,387
Barrackpore	12,366	67,938	80,304	65.733	14,571
Dum-Dum	7,186	21,796	28,982	22,516	6,466
Jalapahar	924	12,615	13,539	12,633	906
Lebong	3,476	6,536	10,012	8,131	1,881
Takdah	2,123	6,343	8,466	6,818	1,648
Total ...	27,177	1,17,384	1,44,561	1,17,702	26,859
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar, Fund.	3,725	6,883	10,608	8,893	1,715
Western Duars' Market Fund.	33,997	49,969	83,966	52,227	31,739
Total ...	37,722	56,852	94,574	61,120	33,454
Police Funds—					
District Chaukidari Reward Fund.	1,05,101	1,02,686	2,07,787	93,107	1,14,680
Fire Brigade ...	95,637	4,78,841	5,74,478	4,69,374	1,05,104
Foundling Asylum ...	38	3,522	3,560	3,427	133
Total ...	2,00,776	5,85,049	7,85,825	5,65,908	2,19,917

Name of fund.	Opening balance	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Marine Fund—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta).	26,597	1,27,490	1,54,087	1,22,480	31,607
Education Funds—					
The Presidency College Graduate Scholarship.	3,642	4,752	8,394	2,880	5,514
Durga Charan Laha's Fund	...	2,656	2,656	2,656	...
Total ...	3,642	7,408	11,050	5,536	5,514
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim Lodging House Fund.	3,228	6,591	9,819	6,738	3,081
Asansol Mines Board of Health.	76,433	66,452	1,42,885	60,885	82,000
Chittagong General Hospital	536	40,289	40,825	34,515	6,310
Imambara Hospital Fund ...	2,777	20,796	23,573	20,667	2,906
Bengal Famine Orphan Fund.	12,725	1,222	13,947	...	13,947
Joygobinda Laha's Fund ...	5,360	5,515	10,875	...	10,875
Ramlal Mukherjee Endowment Fund.	2,276	1,750	4,026	...	4,026
Total ...	1,03,335	1,42,615	2,45,950	1,22,805	1,23,145
Public Works Fund—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	1,19,854	1,36,885	2,56,739	1,53,159	1,03,580
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund.	40,314	1,17,973	1,58,287	1,55,378	2,909
Zoological Garden Fund ...	46,652	1,07,318	1,53,970	1,43,117	10,853
Moshin Endowment Fund	19,911	98,965	1,18,876	98,495	20,381
Christian Burial Board Fund	16,467	48,873	65,340	54,013	11,327
Muhammadan Burial Board Fund.	.691	2,867	3,558	2,985	573
Syedpur Trust Estate Eund	28,477	2,03,136	2,31,613	1,99,097	32,516
Boinche Trust Estate Fund	7,151	51,986	59,137	49,227	9,910
Cinematograph Act Fund ...	...	18,057	18,057	14,939	3,118
Total ...	1,59,663	6,49,175	8,08,838	7,17,251	91,587
GRAND TOTAL ...	42,56,695	1,42,41,259	1,84,97,954	1,43,24,491	41,73,463

Five Union Funds, one fund under the Cinematograph Act and one Municipal Fund were opened during the year. The aggregate receipts of the District Funds fell below those of the previous year. The collective closing balance, however, remained practically the same as last year.

Grants.

533. The Cantonment Funds received the following grants from the Military Department :—

	Rs.
Barrackpore	175
Jalapahar	6,300
Takdah	3,200

The operation of the Cantonment Act and Code was withdrawn from the Alipur Station during the year.

As a result of the increase in the rates of port dues and the improvement in the number and tonnage of shipping the Hospital Port Dues Fund was able not only to incur a larger expenditure but also to exhibit an enhanced closing balance.

The receipts of the Satem Boiler Inspection Fund, which received a check in the preceding year, increased again in 1920-21. This permitted of a larger expenditure and rendered possible the appointment of a Chief Inspector of Boilers.

The Zoological Garden Fund showed an increased income of about Rs. 10,000 chiefly due to an increase in entrance receipts. This fund also received the usual contribution of Rs. 20,000 from Government.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1920-21.]

Rate.

534. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the Road and Public Works Cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Demand and collection.

535. The valuation or gross rental on which the cesses are based amounted to Rs. 13,58,04,244 against a land revenue demand of the same area of Rs. 2,78,57,593. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 205 per cent. The total cess demand was Rs. 83,31,559, including arrears (Rs. 10,30,153), and the total collections Rs. 71,77,707. The current demand showed a net increase of Rs. 2,25,518 over that of the preceding year. The increase was mainly contributed by the districts of Burdwan (Rs. 35,694), Midnapore (Rs. 31,624), 24-Parganas (Rs. 68,341) and Mymensingh (Rs. 44,256) as a result of the valuation and revaluation proceedings and of the assessment of new mines and royalty receipts and the revision of assessment. The percentage of collection fell from 101·8 to 98·3 while that of the outstanding balance on the total demand rose from 12·4 to 13·8 during the year under report. The remissions decreased from Rs. 41,865 to Rs. 9,170, of which a sum of Rs. 6,994 was granted in the 24-Parganas on account of the reduction in the valuation of estates and cancellation of rent-free holdings and *hâts* and fairs which were doubly assessed. No arrears were barred by limitation during the year under report.

Working of the certificates procedure.

536. The total number of certificates filed for the realization of cesses was 40,102 against 45,692 of the previous year, showing a decrease of 5,590 certificates. This decrease was shared by all the districts except Birbhum, Jessore, Khulna, Mymensingh, Dacca, Bakarganj and Rangpur. The total number of certificates for disposal, including 13,935 pending from the preceding year, stood at 54,037, of which 43,160 were disposed of, leaving 10,877 pending at the close of the year. The number of cases pending for more than six months was 1,388 against 1,389 of the preceding year, and for these pending cases Burdwan, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Tippera were mainly responsible. Many of these pending cases have been disposed of since the close of the year. In as many as 897 cases certificates were cancelled on such grounds as double assessment, death or desertion of certificate debtors, and certificates being filed against wrong persons. Arrears of cases were recovered in 8,992 cases on the mere issue of the notices of demand, in 26,089 cases on the issue of the notices of the attachment of property, movable and immovable, and in 2,006 cases on the issue of the distress warrants and warrants of arrests, while recourse had to be taken to actual sales only in 1,688 cases out of a total number of 54,037 for disposal.

Valuations and revaluations.

537. Revaluation on a large scale under the control of the Collector were in progress in the districts of Midnapore, Mymensingh and Dinajpur. Revaluations conducted by the Settlement Department were in progress in some of the estates in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali. The assessment of the coal mines in the district of Burdwan and of certain *gazari* forests in Dacca was, as usual, revised under Chapter V of the Cess Act.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of the Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for the year 1920. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

General results.

538. Although the year under review was slightly healthier than either of the two previous years, the province has recovered less rapidly than other parts of India from the effects of the influenza pandemic of 1918 and 1919. This is reflected not so much in the height of the death-rate as in the continued disappearance of the natural increase of the population. From this latter point of view Bengal was in 1920 the most unhealthy province in the whole of India with an excess of deaths over births of 2·7 per 1,000.

Birth-rates.

539. The provincial birth-rate which fell to 27·5 per mille in 1919 rose by 2·5 to 30·0, but still remained 1·9 per mille below this quinquennial average. The improvement was shared by every district with the exception of Khulna where the birth-rate declined. But only eight districts showed any excess of births over deaths. Of these districts four were situated in the Rajshahi division and two in each of the Dacca and Chittagong divisions. No district in either the Burdwan or Presidency division showed any excess of births over deaths. Rangpur showed the greatest excess of births over deaths, *viz.*, 9 per 1,000, and Noakhali came second with 6 per 1,000.

Death-rates.

540. The death-rate for 1920 was 32·7 against 36·2 in 1919 and 32·1 the quinquennial average. The improvement was shared by 23 districts including Calcutta, but in four districts, viz., Howrah, Faridpur, Bogra and Dacca, mortality was higher than that of the previous year. The greatest increase was in Bogra which returned a death-rate of 37·6 against 27·9 in 1919. Birbhum and Darjeeling reported the highest death-rate, viz., 43·7, but this figure was lower than that of the previous year. Among towns, Maniktala reported the highest death-rate of 54·0 per mille and Kurseong stood second with 48·8. Five other towns also returned death-rates exceeding 40 per mille. In the Burdwan and Presidency divisions, respectively, the death-rate exceeded the birth-rate by 8·6 and 8·3 per 1,000. In the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong divisions, respectively, the death-rates were 1·1, 0·6 and 2·4 per 1,000 below the corresponding birth-rates.

Mortality according to age, sex and class.

541. Compared with 1919 the death-rates of males were lower by 3·7 and of females by 3·4 per 1,000, the decrease being shared by all age periods. The death-rates among the various classes during 1920 were as follows:—Christians 28·3, Hindus 32·6, Muhammadans 32·7, Buddhists 28·6 and other classes 34·5. The divisional figures under the various classes show that the death-rate among Mussalmans exceeds that of Hindus very materially. In Rajshahi division, for example, the Mussalman death-rate is 5·9 per 1,000 higher than that of Hindus.

Infant mortality.

542. The infant deaths reported in 1920 were 282,090 compared with 284,298 in 1919. But owing to the increased number of births recorded during the year the infantile mortality rate appears much lower than that of the previous year, viz., 207 per 1,000 births against 288. The lowest mortality was recorded from Noakhali and Tippera. In Calcutta and eight other towns the death-rate exceeded 300 per 1,000 births. The highest rate recorded (of 896) was in Maniktala, but this is probably largely due to defective registration of which a certain amount of attention is now being paid to infant welfare work in a few localities, but the problem is rendered very difficult owing to the unsatisfactory economic condition of the local authorities.

Verification of vital statistics.

543. Totals of 32,602 births and 19,705 deaths returns were enquired into during the year. In Jalpaiguri and Pabna 20·3 and 17·7 per cent., respectively, of omissions were detected in the birth registers; and in Jessore,

Pabna and Jalpaiguri, the proportion of omissions detected in the death registers was 12·4, 11·5 and 11·3 per cent., respectively. Registration in towns is on the whole even more inaccurate than that of rural areas, and the law in regard to the registration of births and deaths is practically a dead letter in the majority of municipalities.

Cholera.

544. Cholera was much less prevalent during the year. There were 54,199 deaths from this cause or 70,750 fewer than in 1919. The disease was present in every district, but the incidence was specially low in Darjeeling, Bogra, Jalpaiguri and Murshidabad. In eight other districts also it was less than 1 per 1,000. In no district was the cholera death-rate higher than the previous year. Cholera was most prevalent in the 24-Parganas and the districts immediately adjoining; and 50 per cent. of the total cholera mortality of the province occurred in these areas. The highest mortality in any one month (11,934) was in December and the lowest (1,190) in September. Cholera was entirely absent in nine districts during periods varying from a month or more, a fact which shows that the control of the disease by preventive measures is quite possible, if they are applied when the infection is at a minimum, in August or September. Unfortunately, local authorities are very averse from taking the necessary action in this direction. In a few areas, however, something has been done in the way of disinfecting wells, etc., and it is significant that those districts which attempted most work of this kind, viz., Bogra, Malda, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad and Rajshahi, all reported very low death-rates from cholera. The most serious outbreaks occurred in towns, 31 of which suffered severely from this cause. Unfortunately in spite of every effort by the Department of Public Health to spread a knowledge of the cause and prevention of cholera among the people by means of posters, leaflets and lantern demonstrations, municipal authorities and district boards as a whole remain in general very apathetic in regard to cholera prevention.

Plague.

545. The total number of deaths from this cause was 66. As usual the disease was confined almost entirely to Calcutta where 53 deaths occurred. Of the remaining 13 deaths, 11 were in the 24-Parganas. Hooghly and Rajshahi both reported one death from plague. The majority of the deaths, viz., 46 were among males and 20 occurred among females.

Fever.

546. In 1920 deaths reported under this head numbered 1,144,421 against 1,229,257 in 1919 and 1,088,794, the quinquennial average, the respective ratios being 25·2, 27·1 and 24·0 per mille. Fever mortality was specially heavy during the months of March, April, May, August, October and November. In these months the deaths exceeded those of 1919, but in the other six months it was much less. The fewest deaths, viz., 57,169, occurred in July, after the onset of the rains and the largest number, viz., 135,479 were reported in December.

Fever mortality was specially heavy in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions, exceeding the mean of the decade 1901—11 by 30 per cent. In the Rajshahi division, on the other hand, fever deaths were 20 per cent. below the mean of this period. The Dacca and Chittagong divisions taken together showed a fever mortality of 12 per cent. above the mean of the decade of 1901—11, but this is largely accounted for by the increase of population.

Birbhum district recorded the highest fever mortality, viz., 38·9, a figure much below that of 51·6 returned during the previous year. Bogra, Faridpur, 24-Parganas, Dacca and Howrah showed an increase of fever mortality over 19·5, whereas the incidence was less in the remaining 22 districts. Sirajganj was the only municipality which returned a fever death-rate over 30·0 per mille. In 1919 the fever death-rate in this town was only 8·0 per mille. The increase is partly due to improved registration of deaths since the appointment of an energetic sanitary inspector, but there has been a serious increase of malaria in this area since the construction of the Sara-Sirajganj Railway, which is likely to have effected the mortality returns.

There has been a regrettable increase of malaria in many other portions of the province also, as may be judged from the fact that during 1920 the ratio of fever cases total admissions to the dispensaries in each of the divisions of the province has shown a very great increase over the figures of

a few years ago. Since 1920 this ratio which is known as "fever index" has increased by 25 per cent. in the Burdwan division, 40 per cent. in the Presidency division and 46 per cent. in the Rajshahi division, while in the Dacca and Chittagong divisions, respectively, which have long been relatively free of malaria, the increases have been at the rate of 91 and 146 per cent.

Anti-malarial works.

547. The experimental anti-malarial schemes in Burdwan, Murshidabad and Jalpaiguri were under observation during the year. Results at Meenglas appear to show that the area dealt with must bear a relation to the intensity of malaria. The more intense the malaria the larger the area over which anopheles breeding places require to be controlled. This has not previously been recognised. It seems probable that the areas dealt with both at Singaran and Meenglas are not sufficiently large to secure the best results.

The results of the Banka Valley and the Jangipur Schemes point to some measures of success, and it is hoped that this will be rendered more apparent when economic conditions become more favourable.

Quinine.

548. Rather less quinine was sold in 1920 through post offices than in 1919, viz., 78,379 boxes of treatments against 78,810. The reduction was probably due to a change in the system of supply. There have been many changes of this kind in the past few years which have generally tended to check a normal expansion in the sales. Tippera, the least malarious district in the province, consumed the largest amount of quinine, viz., 8,035 boxes, which is about 11 per cent. of the total amount sold and nearly as much as that purchased by the whole of the Rajshahi division.

Influenza.

549. The disease persisted in certain parts of the province during 1920, but with considerably lessened virulence. It is estimated that it caused about 140,000 deaths compared with about 409,000 in 1919.

Special enquiries.

550. The Hookworm Enquiry and Stegomyia investigation were continued throughout the year. The investigation into the pollution of the Hooghly was also completed.

Emigration.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[Reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901) for the year ending the 30th June 1921, submitted by the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, and the District and Assistant Superintendents of Emigration.]

Administrative measures.

551. The most remarkable feature of the year under review in connection with inland emigration was the decrease in the number of recruits despatched to the labour districts.

Recruitment and recruiting agencies.

552. Recruiting operations in Bengal were conducted as usual in the districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapore, but the number of garden sardars employed during the year was only 248 as against 700 in the preceding year. All of them worked under the supervision of licensed local agents. The number of local agents' licenses issued was 12 as against 13 in 1919-20.

Number of emmigrants despatched via Goalundo.

553. The total number of emigrants recruited in Bengal was 86 as against 600 in the previous year. The largest number of recruits was from Midnapore, viz., 68. Conditions of recruitment in other provinces appear to have been similar, for the total number of emigrants from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 13,051 as compared with 50,989 in the preceding year. The decrease was mainly due to the depression in the tea industry. No criminal case connected with emigration was reported during the year.

Sanitary arrangements.

554. Rest-houses for emigrants were duly inspected and generally kept in proper sanitary condition. These rest-houses, which used to be maintained by different forwarding agents, have been taken over by the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association since the 31st August 1920.

Siskness and mortality.

555. Arrangements for river transport were satisfactory. Five deaths, of which two were due to cholera, were reported to have occurred

among emigrants at Naihati. Of the 13,061 emigrants who arrived at Goalundo nine died at the Goalundo hospital; two of these deaths were due to cholera. There was no deaths during the steamer journey to Chandpur among the 3,710 emigrants who embarked for the Surma Valley districts, but of the 9,341 emigrants who embarked for the Brahmaputra Valley three died during the voyage, one of the deaths being due to cholera.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal, 1921.]

General.

556. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta remained the same (23), as in the preceding year. The number of patients treated in these institutions was 482,110 (41,357 in-patients and 440,286 out-patients) as compared with 460,416 (41,357 in-door and 419,059 out-door patients) treated in the previous year. The increase occurred mainly in the out-door department and chiefly at the Medical College and Campbell Hospitals. There was an increase in the accommodation available for in-patients in classes I, III and IV hospitals, viz., from 2,115 beds in 1919 to 2,228 during the year under report. The construction of new wards in the hospital attached to the Carmichael Medical College accounts for the increase of 110 beds.

Nursing.

557. Altogether 346 nurses were employed in the in-door hospitals of classes I, III and IV as compared with 313 in 1919. Epidemics rendered it necessary to employ extra nurses in the Campbell Hospital while a large number of probationers was employed in the Medical College and the Presidency General Hospitals.

Diseases.

558. Cholera was epidemic in the town almost throughout the year, although in less virulent form than in the preceding year. As the result of a severe epidemic there were 2,925 deaths from small-pox as against 1,870 in 1919. One thousand two hundred and thirty-one cases were treated in hospitals as compared with 811 in the previous year. Influenza was less prevalent, there being 1,382 in-door and 9,112 out-door patients against 2,031 and 11,669 in the preceding year. Of the in-door patients, 705 (of which 312 died) were suffering from phthisis; the corresponding figures in 1919 were 689 and 278.

Finance.

559. A sum of Rs. 26,08,389 was spent for the maintenance of the hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta as compared with Rs. 29,03,660 in 1919. The decrease occurred entirely under building charges; the expenditure on this account was Rs. 7,30,083 in 1920 against Rs. 13,73,123 in the previous year. There was an increase in the expenditure under all other heads.

DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

560. Thirty-three new dispensaries were opened, three closed, and one struck off list, leaving a total number of 794 at the end of the year, against 765 in 1919.

Number of patients.

561. Altogether 7,311,782 sick persons received medical aid in the Presidency outside of Calcutta as against 6,970,462 in 1919. Of these 72,407 were in-door patients against 75,080 in-patients in the previous year.

Diseases treated.

562. Malaria was, as usual, the most common of the diseases treated at the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries. If all classes of institutions are taken into account, no less than 2,270,000 patients were treated for malaria in 1920 against 1,972,300 in 1919. The small-pox epidemic of 1919 persisted during several months of the following year in a more severe form, and the number of small-pox patients treated in hospitals and dispensaries consequently rose from 1,535 to 1,848 in 1920. There was a greater prevalence of plague—1,067 patients against 118 in 1919. The number of

patients treated for venereal diseases increased from 64,219 in 1919 to 70,616 in 1920. The pandemic of influenza subsided in 1919; and there was no fresh outbreak of the disease in the following year.

563. The total income of classes I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 16,63,620 as compared with Rs. 15,48,673 in the preceding year and the total expenditure was Rs. 16,28,298 against Rs. 14,75,313. Government contributed 14·84 per cent. of the total income against 12·82 per cent. in 1919; while the local fund and municipal contributions amounted to 45·10 and 13·25 per cent. as compared with 42·88 and 14·92 per cent. respectively. Public subscriptions and donations amounted to 17·33 per cent. against 18·46 per cent. in 1919. Finance.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1920.]

564. The total number of admissions during the year fell from 443 in 1919 to 437. Owing to the introduction of the revised scale of charges during the year, the system of classification of persons and a separate mess for each class were abolished. The number of patients treated was 128 or 15 less than in the previous year. Admissions.

565. The total receipts of the institution for the year, viz., Rs. 48,848 fell short of the total expenditure by Rs. 9,320. The loss was chiefly due to excess expenditure on account of—(1) the Civil Surgeon's allowance, (2) repairs to the X-Ray apparatus, and (3) Medical stores and appliances. Another reason is probably the high cost of living in the hills which kept away many people from taking admission in the sanitarium. The opening of certain rival institutions in the town also adversely affected its finances. It has therefore been decided by Government that, in future, the sanitarium will be worked as a hospital and home for the sick and convalescent and only people who can produce medical certificates will be admitted. The daily average cost of diet fell from Rs. 2-6-9 in 1919 to Rs. 2-5-6 in 1920. Finance.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the years 1918, 1919 and 1920. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

566. The new building for the "Under observation" cases at Bhowanipore which is now in progress, is expected to be completed shortly. It will provide accomodation for both Europeans and Indian patients, viz., six Europeans and 124 Indians, and provision will also be made for paying patients. Accommodation, population, admission and discharge.

There are now two lunatic asylums (Berhampore and Dacca) in addition to the observation ward at Bhowanipur and an insane ward at Gobra, and there is altogether accommodation for 1,099 inmates (901 males and 198 females). The total number of insane persons treated in the asylums in Bengal during 1920 was 1,263 against 1,254 in 1919, the daily average strength being 967 against 997 and the maximum number confined in any one night being 1,002 as compared with 1,028 in 1919. Admissions and readmissions taken together numbered 278 in 1,920 against 247 in 1919, while the number of persons discharged amounted to 189 in 1920 against 171 in the previous year. There was no overcrowding in any asylum during the period under review except to a small extent in the male section of the Dacca asylum, to which additional barracks have been added to relieve overcrowding in future.

567. The record of health of the asylum was unfavourable. The condition of the lunatics at the time of admission was generally very poor, and epidemics of influenza visited the asylums both at Berhampore and at Dacca while there was also an outbreak of dysentery in 1920. The admissions to hospitals rose from 501 in 1919 to 612 in 1920. Health of lunatics.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Board and the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal, 1920.]

Sanitary Board.

568. The Sanitary Board continued its useful function of advising Government on sanitary projects of water-works and drainage. The Board held nine meetings during the year.

Sanitary Engineering.

569. There were altogether 12 schemes of water-supply, sewerage and anti-malarial drainage in course of construction during the year under the control of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department; two of these were completed and three were nearing completion. The total capital expenditure on water-works and drainage and sewerage schemes carried out by municipalities during the year amounted to Rs. 7,79,538 and Rs. 2,14,004, respectively. The total capital expenditure on sanitary engineering works in the province during the year was Rs. 10,53,509, out of this Rs. 8,43,679 was spent on new construction by the Sanitary Engineer's Department.

Mines Board of Health.

570. The Asansol Mines Board of Health continued to do good work. They undertook measures against both hookworm disease and malaria during the year. In comparison with the year 1919 there was a great reduction in deaths from cholera, dysentery, and diarrhœa and influenza; whereas small-pox was rather more prevalent owing probably to importation from Calcutta and elsewhere, and respiratory diseases also showed a considerable increase. There were more deaths amongst infants in comparison with the year before.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and Short Notes on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1919-20. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Vaccination.

571. The mortality from small-pox during the year 1920 was 36,190 against 37,010 in the preceding year. These figures greatly exceed the quinquennial average. The highest mortality from small-pox occurred in Calcutta in which the death-rate from this cause was 3·3 per mille and the next heavy mortality, viz., 2·4 per mille was reported from Bogra. Howrah, Dacca and Hooghly districts also suffered severely. During the period 1920-21, however, the mortality was only 21,950 against 41,200 during 1919-20. The number of vaccinations performed during the season was 2,326,497, of which 1,420,037 were primary and 906,460 were revaccinations. There was thus a decrease of 226,062 in primary vaccinations and 634,088 revaccinations as compared with the previous year. The decrease in vaccinations was due to the lessened prevalence of small-pox during the season. Free vaccination has now been introduced into a number of districts and salaried vaccinators under district boards have taken the places of licensed vaccinators in Burdwan, Birbhum, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bakarganj and Chittagong.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act XII of 1919 during the year 1920.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

572. The provisions of the Act as well as of the rules issed under it were made known to the public in the same manner as in the preceding years. The total number of licenses granted during the year under review throughout the presidency, including Calcutta, was 170 under section 2 and 234 under section 4, as compared with 169 and 244, respectively, in 1919. In Calcutta the total number of licenses issued under both the sections amounted to 139 against 138 in the year 1919. The shops of licensed vendors of poisons were,

as usual, inspected by police and other officers, but no serious irregularity was noticed in the course of inspection. There was no case of prosecution in Calcutta, but in mufassal districts there were four prosecutions in two of which the accused persons were convicted and in the remaining two, acquitted. Several cases of cattle-poisoning were reported from certain districts, and the unlicensed sale of poisons was suspected in some districts of Eastern Bengal. The attitude of the public towards the working of the Act was one of indifference.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

General Administrati n Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 264—273.

Education.

Administration.

573. The most important feature of the year's administration was the transfer of the administrative control of the department to a Minister and the appointment of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, as *ex-officio* Deputy Secretary to Government in the Education Department, under the Reforms Scheme. The Indian Educational Service was revised and the officers were classed into three branches of the service, viz., the administrative, the collegiate and the special. Two distinct cadres were formed with different rates of pay for men and women members of the service on a time-scale basis in place of previous system. Similarly the Bengal Educational Service was also reorganised on a time-scale rate of pay and two separate cadres were formed for men and women. During the year 15 posts of the Bengal Educational Service were raised to the Indian Educational Service status.

Educational Institutions and expenditure.

574. During the year 1920-21 the total number of educational institutions, both public and private, rose from 52,879 to 53,968 or by 1,089, but pupils fell from 1,953,909 to 1,945,145 or by 8,764, a result attributed to adverse economic conditions, the non-co-operation movement and the exclusion from the returns of Technical and Industrial Schools, which have ceased to be controlled by this department.

The total expenditure on public instruction rose by $7\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs and aggregated $309\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, of which $108\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs were granted from provincial revenues, $16\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs were contributed by local bodies, $134\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs were realised from fees and $49\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs were obtained from private sources, such as, subscriptions, donations, etc.

Collegiate education.

575. As in the previous year the number of arts colleges for Indian male students stood at 33, of which 7 were maintained by Government, 1 was under municipal management and 25 were private institutions. The number of students fell from 21,380 to 19,576, the decrease being attributable mainly to the withdrawal of students in sympathy with the non-co-operation movement. The dominant factor in the history of the collegiate education was the rise and progress of the non-co-operation movement. Private colleges, which depend mostly upon fees, became particularly the target of the agitators. In spite of the decrease in the number of students, the expenditure on collegiate education rose by Rs. 3,23,779, bringing up the total to over $25\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, of which $9\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were derived from provincial revenues.

Secondary education.

576. The secondary schools for Indian boys also suffered from non-co-operation movement. During the year the number of secondary schools declined by 63 and of pupils by 38,393. Although the number of high schools rose by five, the number of middle schools declined by 68 (47 middle English and 21 middle vernacular). The decrease in the number of middle English schools is due to the raising of some of them to the status of high schools, while some were converted into minor madrassahs and others were closed through economic causes. The 21 middle vernacular schools disappeared as there was no demand for purely vernacular education.

The position of the head masters of Government high schools has been improved by their inclusion in the Bengal Educational Service. The majority of the teachers in secondary schools managed by Government are in

the Subordinate Educational Service and the Lower Subordinate Educational Service in which the pay and the prospects of promotion are inadequate. The Subordinate Educational Service Reorganisation Committee have recommended a time scale pay and the matter is receiving the attention of the department. The majority of secondary schools are under private management and their condition is not satisfactory as they are financially weak and poor in house and equipment.

Weaving, carpentry, smithy, bamboo and canework, tailoring and rope-making are taught in the manual training classes. The non-co-operation movement it is said to have given an impetus to the spinning and weaving industry by insisting on the use of the *charkas*.

Primary education.

577. During the year primary schools for Indian boys increased by 839 and pupils by 29,106. The number of Hindu pupils increased by 9 per cent. and of Muhammadan pupils by 3·6 per cent. The total expenditure on primary schools for Indian boys amounted to nearly Rs. 43 lakhs, the bulk of which was met from the allotments sanctioned out of the various imperial grants.

The most important feature in the history of primary education was the deputation of Mr. Evan E. Biss, a member of the Indian Educational Service, with a view to work out schemes for the expansion and improvement of primary education in urban and rural areas. In his report detailed schemes for 35 municipalities and 23 union boards were worked out. Municipalities hesitated to commit themselves to any large expenditure, but the main difficulty was the levying of a cess, which is an essential feature of the proposal. Mr. Dunn's report on the survey of primary schools in Calcutta was considered by Government and it has been decided to pay to the Corporation of Calcutta 16¼ lakhs by instalment for the improvement of primary schools in the town.

The general condition of primary schools is not satisfactory. The average income of a primary school teacher is much below that of a day labourer, and it is idle to expect any real progress unless the condition of the teachers is improved.

Training of male teachers for Indian schools.

578. At the end of the year 1920-21 there were 114 institutions for the training of teachers for Indian schools, viz., two colleges, 6 normal schools and 106 guru, muallim, and special training schools. The two training colleges, maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca, prepare students for the B. T. and L. T. examinations of the Calcutta University. During the year 54 students passed the B. T. examination and 29 students the L. T. examination from these colleges. Altogether 175 trained teachers came out successful from the training schools for vernacular teachers and 1,496 trained teachers from guru-training and special training schools. Although the number of successful trained teachers from guru-training schools rose from 989 in 1919-20 to 1,496 in 1920-21, the future of these schools does not seem very hopeful as many of the trained teachers give up teaching and take to more remunerative occupations.

Professional and technical education.

579. With the abolition of the pleadership classes attached to the Midnapore College, the number of law institutions decreased by one. The total number of law students fell by 437 on the 31st March 1921 as compared with the number returned on the corresponding date of the preceding year. Of 1,576 students who appeared at the B. L. final examination 647 passed.

In consequence of the formation of the Industries Department under this Government, all technical and industrial institutions, with the exception of the Bengal Engineering College and the Ahsanullah School of Engineering at Dacca, have been transferredto that department and the following subjects are dealt with by the Director of Industries:—

(1) Amin Examination Board.
(2) Joint Technical Examination Board.
(3) Mining Instruction in Coalfield.
(4) City and Guilds Examination of London Institute.
(5) State Technical Scholarship.

In the Bengal Engineering College visiting teachers were appointed last session in Drawing, Water-works, Drainage and Sewerage and Structural Engineering. The Government of Inida have directed that during the year under report the Upper Subordinate Classes at the Engineering College should be discontinued.

The Engineering courses offered at the Ahsanullah School of Engineering are very popular and the question of duplicating the classes may have to be considered before long. There were "B" classes attached to the Dacca and Rajshahi Collegiate Schools and the Zilla Schools at Khulna, Rangpur and Pabna.

Education of Indian girls and women.

580. Female education made great progress, the number of institutions for Indian girls increasing by 668 and of pupils by 16,544. The percentage of increase in the case of Muhammadan girls was higher than in the case of Hindu girls. The Muhammadans increased by 10,587.

On the 31st March 1921 there were 57 zenana teachers and 1,262 pupils in zenana classes. The work of these classes was hampered by the great increase in conveyance charges. The Inspectress of Schools, Presidency and Burdwan divisions, did not recommend an extension of the system of zenana classes as in her opinion the results achieved so far have not been encouraging. In all there were 13 institutions for the training of Indian girls, viz., one attached to the Diocesan College, which prepared Indian women for the B. T. and L. T. examinations of the Calcutta University, and 12 for the training of female teachers of primary schools. The provision of women teachers trained in these institutions was not commensurate with the demand. The peripatetic needlework teachers worked satisfactorily and the question of improving their pay and prospects is receiving attention. In consequence of the grants made by the Imperial grant, the education of Indian girls has made good progress, but much yet has to be done in the matter of increased outturn of trained women teachers and the provision of decent school houses with quarters for mistresses.

Education of Europeans.

581. The total number of pupils on the rolls of the European schools on the 31st March 1921 was 9,883 as compared with 10,106 on the corresponding date in the year preceding. The decrease is attributable to the transfer of the technical and industrial schools to the control of the Director of Industries. On account of the high cost of living the monthly rate of free boarding grant in a European school was increased from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per head.

In January 1921, a conference was held under the presidency of Mr. J. W. Gunn, Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to consider the general question of European elementary education in the province, the elementary school certificate and supplementary class final examinations in particular. Certain important lines of development were discussed and a sub-committee was formed to elaborate the details of the suggestions, which were made at the conference.

Muhammadan education.

582. Although the total number of Muhammadan pupils studying in all types of institutions for Indians increased during the year 1920-21 by 6,811, there was a decrease in the number attending high and middle schools, and the causes for the decrease were attributed to the pressing economic depression and non-co-operation movement. The number of pupils attending madrassahs rose by 1,581, the increase being due to the introduction of the reformed madrassah course, which embraces both religious and secular instruction.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867.

583. The total number of publications registered during the year was 3,766, of which 2,537 were books and 1,229 issues of periodicals. Of the former 2,274 were original publications and 263 republications and translations. There were 169 separate publications of periodicals, 50 being in English, 82 in Bengali and the remainder in different languages. There were altogether 50 cases of evasion of the law of book registration.

The Press.

584. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and vernacular, printed and published during the year was 406. Of these 263 were published in the town of Calcutta. The Bengali publications took the lead with 209, those in English numbered 130, and the remainder were in Hindi and other languages.

Sixty-one new periodicals and newspapers were started, 18 old papers were revived and 3 ceased to exist.

The Indian Press Act, 1910.

585. The Indian papers continued hostile towards the Indian Press Act, 1910, and advocated its total repeal.

During the year under review the provisions of the Act had to be enforced on more than one occasion. One book, 1 newspaper, 5 pamphlets and 12 leaflets were forfeited. Security was demanded from 12 papers and 17 presses of which 7 papers and 10 presses furnished the sums required. The securities of the *Muhammadi* and *Nava Yuga* presses were forfeited. Warnings under the Act were issued to the—

(1) *Muhammadi.*
(2) *Mussulman.*
(3) *Dainik Basumati.*
(4) *Nava Yuga.*

There were no voluntary surrenders of books, newspapers, periodicals, etc.

Literary publications.

586. There was a marked decrease in the number of literary productions during the year as compared with 1919-20, especially in respect of educational books. This was partly due to an excess issue of such literature in previous years, and partly to the high cost of paper and printing materials.

Poetry seems to have declined. Drama has also fallen on evil days and the few aspirants for dramatic fame failed to achieve the desired success. The standard of historical productions deteriorated. Those in English worthy of mention were—

(1) "History of Aurangzib" (Vol. IV), by Professor Jadu Nath Sarkar.
(2) "Mughal Administration," by the same author.
(3) " The Orient under the Caliphs," by Mr. S. Khuda Baksh, M.A., B.C.L.

The first two are original productions while the last is a translation of Von Kremer's work "Culturgeschichte des Orients."

Fiction monopolised the interest of the reading public. There was an increased output, but many of the books were crude in construction.

As in previous years, there was very little literature on current politics and the number of such productions decreased. Most of the works published were reprints of speeches delivered by Extremist leaders. The Moderate party totally abstained from publishing any important literature.

Topics discussed in the Press.

587. The newspaper press concerned itself as usual mainly with political issues. After the passing of the Government of India Act, interest in the Reforms seemed to have waned; non-co-operation became the all engrossing topic and provided a real point of difference between Moderate and Extremist.

The Government of India resolution on non-co-operation encountered considerable criticism; the Moslem papers in general argued that non-co-operation was something more than a mere political question, being a religious obligation. The post-war settlement with Turkey entirely absorbed Moslem papers and found active sympathisers among the Hindu papers and Hindus in general.

The dissatisfaction occasioned by the terms of the Peace Treaty expedited the adoption of non-co-operation by Moslems in furtherance of their agitation for greater concessions to Turkey.

The visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was generally appreciated and proved a success in spite of the efforts of the non-co-operators

to make it a failure. In the absence of the announcement of some special "boon" or the grant of "*swaraj*" from a particular date, anticipations of which had been sedulously fostered, the vernacular press was almost unanimous in its tone of disappointment.

Government's attitude in connection with the high prices of necessaries was frequently condemned. The most insistent cry was against the export of rice and it gained in volume on the removal of the restriction on inter-provincial movements of rice. Later in the year there were strong protests against Government's action in allowing exports of wheat, while they were also blamed for not having imported standard cloth to afford some relief from high prices. The rise in the price of coal excited strong comments and was put down to profiteering by middlemen. The problems of labour attracted increased sympathy and political agitators frequently took advantage of economic stress to engineer and bring about strikes.

Literary Societies.

See—

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 278-279.

Arts and Sciences.

Administration.

588. The control of technical and industrial education was transferred to the Department of Industries towards the end of 1920. Under the orders of Government the report of this department is drawn up according to the calendar year, and consequently the annual returns are made up to 31st December instead of 31st March as in previous reports under the above head. The main feature of the year 1920-21 was the appointment of a strong and representative committee to consider the question of the establishment of a fully equipped technical school in Calcutta. The Committee worked out a scheme according to which the main initial feature will be part-time classes for engineering apprentices, but the scheme is so arranged as to admit of subsequent expansion into a fully equipped technological institute. A site of about 6 bighas has been chosen in Corporation Street and arrangements made for its acquisition and purchase by Government at a cost of about Rs. 8½ lakhs.

In connection with the scheme for improving the training of apprentices in railway workshops, the hostel for Indian apprentices at Kanchrapara was practically completed together with the house for one of the teachers.

Government School of Arts, Calcutta

589. The number of students on the 31st December 1920 was 246 against 242 in the previous year. Of the 246 students 117 belonged to the Elementary Department, 42 to the Draftsman Department, 36 to the Industrial Department, 47 to the Fine Arts Department and 4 to the Teachers' Department. Classified according to race and creed, there were 4 Indian Christians, 16 Muhammadans and 226 Hindus. The number of boarders in the hostel was 35. Over 30 students secured suitable employment and the demand for them is increasing. The total direct expenditure from 1st April to 31st December 1920 was about Rs. 25,073.

Government Art Gallery.

590. During the year under review various collections of art objects submitted by art dealers and others were inspected and from these a number of examples of metal-ware textile fabrics and Indian paintings were collected and purchased for the gallery with the approval of the Trustees of the Indian Museum. The practice of lending to the School of Art selected samples of art objects from the Art Gallery was continued.

Society of Oriental Art.

591. The Society received this year a Government grant of Rs. 19,880 and has been able to secure a fine suite of rooms and a lecture and exhibition hall, for which furniture has been specially designed. A class and studio for artists have been started. Nine students were in attendance and many applications were received for new admissions. The Society has further undertaken the publication of a quarterly journal devoted to the study of Indian Art.

Other Schools of Arts.

592. There were other schools of art, including the India Art School, Calcutta. Grants were given to two of these institutions amounting to Rs. 2,400 during the year.

Music school.

593. The Calcutta School of Music had a staff of four European Professors besides assistants, and the number of pupils was about 80, of whom one-quarter were Indians. It received a grant of Rs. 9,500 from Government, the total expenditure being about Rs. 23,000. In addition to the teaching work two series of high class concerts were given during the year as previously. The School of Indian Music conducted by the Sangit Sabha also received a Government grant.

Mining instruction in the coalfield.

594. Government have decided to proceed with the introduction of the improved scheme for mining instruction, and arrangements have been made for the acquisition of land at Asansol for a residence for the Mining Lecturer and at Raniganj and Sitarampur for the lecture halls and assistants' houses. The existing lectures were continued at Deshargarh, Jamuria and Raniganj, the attendance at the three centres being respectively, 25, 15 and 67. In addition to these lectures, which are conducted in English, elementary vernacular lectures were held at three centres, viz., Toposi, Mugma and Charanpur, the total attendance being 84.

Survey education Advisory Board.

595. At the Amin Examination held in September 1920, 37 candidates appeared of whom 24 passed. The amin courses are given, mainly in the vernacular, at Rangpur, Panba and Rajshahi as well as at the Mainamati Survey School. The latter school had 68 students on its rolls on 31st December 1920 including the second year students, who took a more advanced course. Of this number 60 were Hindus and 8 Muhammadans. At the final examination 46 students appeared of whom 31 passed.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

596. Of the 54 candidates who appeared at the Overseer Examination in the Civil Engineering Branch 42 were successful. In the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Branch 13 candidates presented themselves of whom 10 passed. The new Upper Subordinate Examination Part A was held for the first time this year. The total number of candidates appearing was 25 of whom 19 were successful. For the Sub-Overseer Examination in the old course 77 candidates appeared of whom 46 passed and in the new Lower Subordinate Examination 29 candidates passed out of 50 appearing. The figures given in this paragraph include the candidates from Bihar and Orissa. That province will however probably before long make its own arrangements for examining Bihar candidates.

City and Guilds of London Institute Examination.

597. The year 31 candidates appeared in textile subjects and 27 in other subjects, the passes being 19 and 12, respectively. At the special examinations for girls in domestic subjects, which is held at Kurseong, 33 candidates appeared of whom 17 passed.

Government Weaving Institute, Serampore.

598. In the higher classes 44 students were under training. A third year course of instruction has been added to the former curriculum and it has thus become possible to make the course more comprehensive. Every student of the higher classes who passed out found employment on pay ranging from Rs. 40 to Rs. 120. In the artisan classes 92 students were under training of whom 53 passed out. At the six district schools and seven peripatetic schools 226 passed out after receiving a full course of instruction; 49 students were given loans to enable them to purchase fly-shuttle looms and the money is being realised from them in easy instalments.

Government Commercial Institute.

599. There has been a large increase in the number of students attending and on 31st December 1920 there were 348. The staff of lecturers had to be increased to cope with the larger numbers. Besides the usual subjects, advanced evening classes were held in Auditing, Accountancy and Mercantile Law. At the final examination for the full-time day classes of the Institute 14 candidates passed out of 32. Of the 170 candidates who appeared at the special examinations from affiliated institutions 53 were successful. The expenditure at the Government Commercial Institute for the year 1920 amounted to Rs. 24,914, and the income from fees was Rs. 10,808. A Commercial Department, with a liberal course of fairly high standard, has been

opened at the Krishnath College, Berhampore, for which a Government grant was given.

State Technical Scholarship.

600. No fresh scholarship was awarded during the year but the four scholars previously appointed continued their studies in England.

Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.

601. On the 31st March 1921 the Engineering Department of the college had on its rolls 87 students. There were 232 students in the Apprentice Department and 19 in the artisan classes of the college. Of these students 274 were Hindus, 16 Muhammadans, 46 Christians, and 2 of other communities. The total direct expenditure of the College amounted to Rs. 2,67,744, towards which provincial revenues contributed Rs. 2,37,604. The approximate value of the work turned out by the college workshops was Rs. 23,819. During the year 1920-21 visiting lecturers were appointed in architectural drawing, water-works, drainage and sewerage, and structural engineering. The construction of an assembly and examination hall was started. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned by the Government of India towards the cost of equipment required for the college. The Government of India have directed the discontinuance of the Upper Subordinate classes. Out of 23 students who appeared at the B. E. Examination 19 or 82·6 per cent. were successful.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca.

602. The Ahsanullah School of Engineering at Dacca had 302 pupils in its three departments; 134 students were in the Upper Subordinate and 88 in the Lower Subordinate classes; the Survey class and the Artisan Department had 10 and 70 students, respectively. The school cost Rs. 78,728, of which Rs. 66,622 was met from provincial revenues. The total value of the work turned out by the school workshop was Rs. 4,904. The school with its workshop and hostel was removed to the building formerly occupied by the Secretariat Press. The sanction of Government was accorded during the year under review to the creation of a post for the Assistant Principal of the School. The School Employment Bureau was asked to recommend students who had completed their training for 30 vacancies during the year.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

603. The short-term training classes for pleaders at Dacca and Sibpur were continued. In the annual examination held in February 1921, 27 candidates appeared and 7 were successful.

"B" classes.

604. The total strength of the "B" classes during 1920-21 was 126 boys. Forty-three appeared at the Final Examination and 21 or 48·8 per cent. passed.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHAEOLOGY.

Archæology.

[Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, for 1920-21.]

Office and establishment.

605. Under the orders of the Government of India the present Eastern Circle of the Archæological Survey with headquarters at Calcutta was separated from the old Eastern Circle (now Central Circle) at Patna since April 1920, and Mr. K. N. Dikshit was appointed to officiate as Superintendent of the new Circle from the 12th June 1920.

Position of Archæology under the Reforms Scheme.

606. Under the Reforms, Archæology is now a central charge and henceforward the whole cost of conservation of the protected monuments will be provided by the Government of India and not by the local Government as hitherto. But the Public Works Department of the provincial Government will continue to carry out the work of conservation of monuments as before.

Conservation.

607. Conservation work in Bengal has been retarded since the commencement of the war. The total expenditure incurred on this account in Bengal during the year under report was Rs. 12,456-14. Expenditure on special repairs amounted to Rs. 5,396-13, of which Rs. 3,527-14 were spent on the Palpara temple at Chakdaha in the Nadia district; Rs. 1,570 on the Satmasjid at Keraniganj near Dacca; and Rs. 254 on the old tower on the banks of the river at Nimasarai in the Malda district. The largest expenditure on annual repairs, viz., Rs. 2,557, was incurred in repairing the monuments at Gaur and Pandua in the Malda district, as against Rs. 975 in the preceding year.

Protected monuments.

608. It was decided that the list of monuments to be maintained by the Archæological Department should be made as complete and exhaustive as possible. During the year, 47 monuments of historical or archæological interest were declared to be protected monuments under the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 1904 (Act VII of 1904). The revised list of protected monuments in Bengal corrected up to date shows a total of 148.

Treasure trove.

609. No new cases of teasure trove of coins were reported during the year. Mr. K. N. Dikshit inspected the two images of Vishnu at Falta in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas, referred to in the last year's General Administration Report, and recommended their acquisition. Both the images, it is said, date from the 11th-12th century.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, page 282.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

610. The Ecclesiastical Establishment in Bengal during the year 1920-21, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain of the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 20 Chaplains of the Church of England, 3 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 8 clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., and 4 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1920.]

General.

611. During the year under review the Chemical Examiner's Department was under the charge of three officers, *viz.*, Rai Bahadur Chuni Lal Bose L.S.O., M.B., F.C.S. Major R. B. Lloyd, I.M.S., and Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Dickinson, I.M.S., respectively.

Number of cases.

612. The total number of analyses performed during the year was 2,879 as against 3,687 in the preceding year. Thirty-three samples of mustard oil were received for examination, and of these 16 were found to be adulterated with *paka* oil or other injurious substances. Of the 17 samples of *ghee* analysed 13 were found to be adulterated.

Medico-legal work.

613. In the Medico-Legal Department 1,506 cases were investigated during the year as against 1,598 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 92 cases. The total number of aritcles examined in this department was 2,952 or 16 more than in the preceding year. Seven hundred and eight human viscera were examined; the percentage of detection in human poisoning cases was 41·85 as compared with 44·58 in the previous year. In cattle poisoning cases the percentage of detection fell from 61·89 in 1919 to 57·10 in 1920.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1920-21.]

Transfer of control of the Civil Veterinary Department.

614. During the year under report the administrative control of the Civil Veterinary Department was transferred from the Director of Agriculture to the Principal, Bengal Veterinary College, the senior veterinary officer in the province, who thus became the head of the Civil Veterinary Department with the designation "Veterinary Advisor to the Government of Bengal."

Bengal Veterinary College.

615. The number of students at the Bengal Veterinary College at the end of the session was 127, of which number 53 belonged to Bengal, 45 to Bihar and Orissa and the rest to other provinces. Owing to a large number of students leaving the College, there was a fall in the number of students, as compared with the preceding year's figure, which was 158. During the year 24 students graduated from the College, of whom 4 belonged to Bengal. All the new graduates have been employed as Veterinary Assistants.

College hospital.

616. During the year 2,097 patients were treated and 460 operations performed against 2,447 and 663, respectively, during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

617. In Calcutta and its suburbs all the stables and cattle-sheds were frequently inspected. Glanders was detected in 23 stables against 30 in the previous year. In the mufassal only 3 animals either succumbed to the malady or were destroyed under the provisions of the Glanders and Farcy Act.

Civil Veterinary Department.

618. In the year under report there was a marked increase in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases, the total number of deaths reported being 19,344 as against 14,898 in the previous year. The increase is due to severe outbreaks of rinderpest in several districts of the presidency, this disease being responsible for 17,425 deaths as compared with 12,178 deaths in the previous year. There were in all 539 outbreaks of rinderpest, hæmorrhagic septicæmia and anthrax and 86,354 animals were inoculated as against 84,896 animals in 537 outbreaks in the previous year. The death-rate amongst the inoculated was only 1·06 per cent. for the whole province. Leaflets dealing with the prevention and treatment of cattle diseases were freely distributed as usual. The itinerant Veterinary Assistants visited 12,756 villages and treated 69,584 animals as against 12,831 villages and 58,761 animals in the previous year.

Dispensaries.

619. Two new dispensaries were established at Serajganj and Bagerhat during the year, thus bringing the total number of such institutions to 37, whilst the establishment of more dispensaries are under contemplation. The number of patients treated at these dispensaries was 41,074 as against 44,747 in the previous year.

Breeding of cattle.

620. The number of stud bulls kept by Government and local bodies increased from 124 in the previous year to 132 in the year under report. Of these 65 are the property of local bodies.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

621. The laboratory continued to do good and useful work. Brains of 114 animals suspected of rabies (of which number 91 proved to be rabies) and 323 pathological specimens were examined and reported on.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1920-21.]

Finance and statistics.

622. The financial condition of the garden was on the whole satisfactory in spite of the cost of food-grains and the large outlay on alterations and improvements. The entrance receipts amounted to Rs. 67,845-14, an increase of Rs. 13,321-12 over those of the previous year. Including the Government contribution of Rs. 20,000, the total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,53,957-5-3 and the total expenditure to Rs. 1,43,104-0-2, leaving a surplus of Rs. 10,853-5-1. During the year 842,616 persons, or 127,577 more than in the previous year visited the garden. The number of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year was 328,2,033 and 171, respectively, against 294, 1,919 and 183 at the close of the previous year. The garden was, as usual, open free to the public one day in each month and 42,698 persons availed themselves of the concession.

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NAYABUMKA
RAMPUR BOALIA
BERHAMPORE
SAMUDRA
MAHANADI
PADMA
BRAHMAPUTRA
TISTA
KARATOYA
ATRAI
KOSI
GANGES
MAHANANDA
TORSA
JALDHAKA
DHARLA
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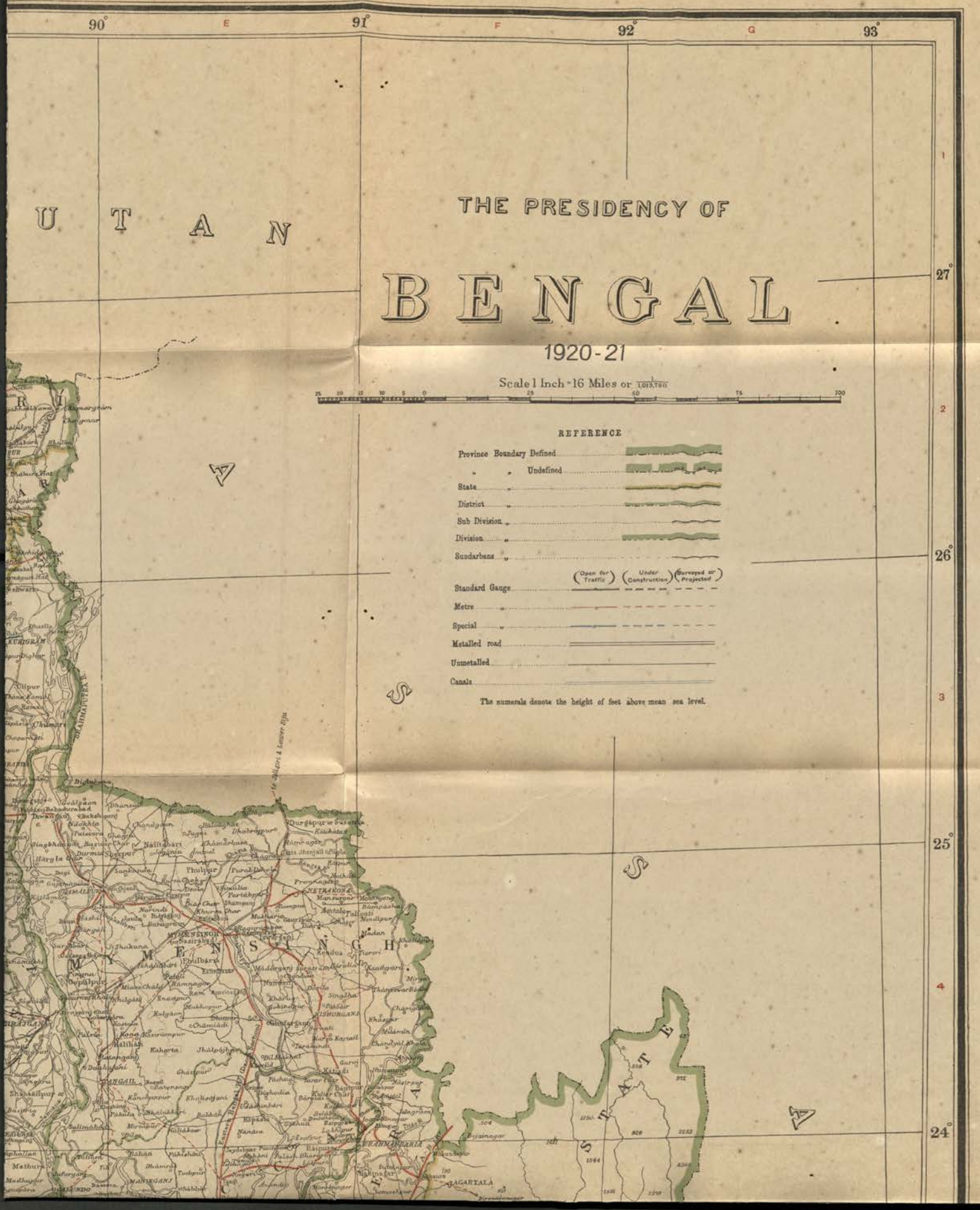
Brahmaputra R.
Hooghly R.
Damuda R.
Kosi R.
Mahanadi R.
Burdwan R.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THE PRESIDENCY OF
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1920-21
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Unmetalled
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KHASIA & JAINTIA HILLS
NAGA HILLS
LUSHAI HILLS
NETAKONA
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JAMALPUR
SYLHET
CACHAR
HILL TIPPERA
TRIPURA STATE
BRAHMANBARIA
COMILLA
NOAKHALI
CHANDPUR
JAGATIALA
BRAHMAPUTRA R.
Old Brahmaputra
Jinjiram R.
Someshwari R.
Kangsha R.
Dhaleswari R.
Surma R.
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Old Meghna
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Longai R.
Sonai R.
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Manu R.
Feni R.
Gumti R.
Howrah R.
Khowai R.
Muhuri R.
Dhansiri R.
Kopili R.
Digboi
Dibrugarh
Sadiya
Tezpur
Gauhati
Shillong
Cherrapunji
Jorhat
Golaghat
Kohima
Dimapur
Mokokchung
Aijal
Lungleh
Agartala
Kailashahar
Dharmanagar
Kamalpur
Udaipur
Belonia
Sabroom
Chandraghona
Rangamati
Kaptai
Bandarban
Ramgarh
Lungthulai
Demagiri
Chittagong
Cox's Bazar
Teknaf
Akyab
Sandoway
Kyaukpyu
Ramree
Thandwe
Taungup
Sittwe
Mongmit
Mogaung
Myitkyina
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Kyaikto
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Sittang R.
Irrawaddy R.
Chindwin R.
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Kaladan R.
Lemro R.
Arakan Hill Tracts
Chin Hills
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Pegu Yoma
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Bay of Bengal
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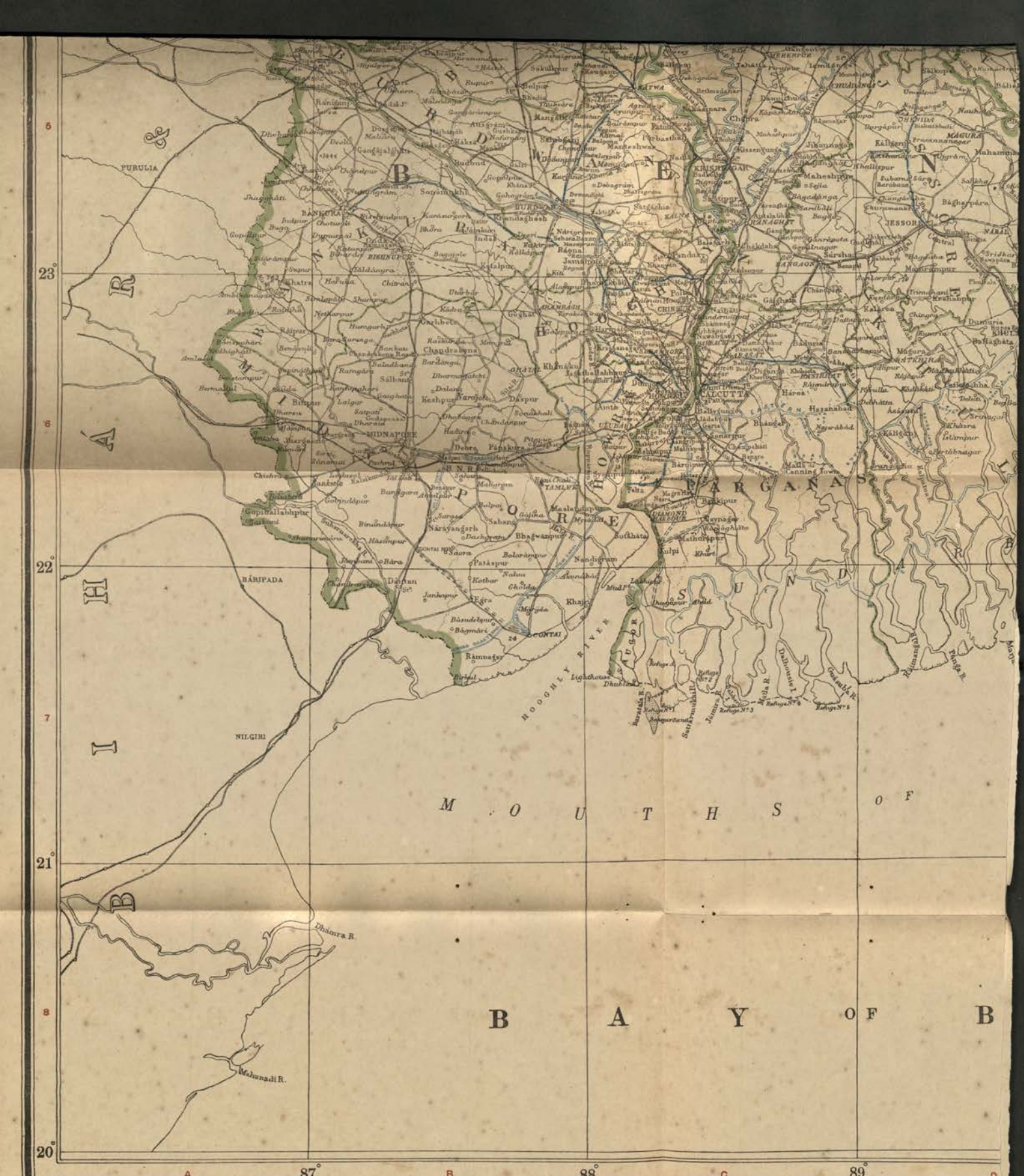

NOTE.—The longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich meridian, taking that of Madras observatory as 80°-17'-21" East. They require a correction of —2'·27" to make them accord with the most recent value of the geodetic longitude of that observatory, *viz.*, 80°-14' 54".

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